SCIENCE / B6

Breast cancer patient wins fight vs 'Big C'

SPORTS / A25

Red Sox take 2-0 lead vs Rockies in World Series

SUPER / C1

The new Rivermaya revealed

ACROSS / A15

19 hurt as plane overshoots runway in Butuan

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, October 27, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 321 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo defends her decision to pardon former President Joseph Estrada at the closing session of the 33rd Philippine Business Conference and Exposition held at the Manila Hotel on Friday. She cited Estrada's advanced age, his mother's worsening health and his promise that he would no longer seek public office. LYN RILLON

Women activists banking on 'panty power' vs Burma

By DJ Yap

IT WAS "FLOWER power" in the 1960s, "people power" in the 1980s, and now, activists are pinning their hopes on "panty power."

Women activists

WOMEN/ A4

Erap bows to GMA power

'President felt good after agony'

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO AGOnized over her decision to pardon her former foe after it was opposed by no less than some members of her inner circle and other administration allies, Malacañang said yesterday.

However, the morning after she extended executive clemency to deposed President Joseph Estrada, Ms Arroyo felt "good," according to Presidential Management Staff head Cerge Remonde.

"It was not an easy decision because which ever way she goes, there will be people who will be displeased," Remonde told the INQUIRER.

"President Arroyo feels good about forgiving. Being a very religious person, the President found inspiration from the (Bible)," he said.

Ms Arroyo herself indicated in a speech at a business gathering yesterday that it had been a tough decision for her.

"In the end, we had to make a decision that was bound to please, displease, impress, confound, unite and divide," she said.

Remonde said Ms Arroyo had been amply warned by former President Fidel Ramos and former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis

PRESIDENT/ A8

HE'S BACK!
Former President Joseph Estrada waves to supporters after signing his release paper at his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, on Friday. "There is no substitute for freedom," he told reporters and supporters. REUTERS

'Let's thank her ... Let's applaud her'

By Volt Contreras, Jocelyn R. Uy and Kristine L. Alave

WITH A LEFT-HANDED STROKE of a pen, Joseph Estrada yesterday gratefully accepted pardon from President Macapagal-Arroyo, finally bowing to the power of a woman who had been the object of his scorn for more than six years.

And two hours after Estrada affixed his signature to the pardon document issued by Ms Arroyo on Thursday, the Sandiganbayan sheriff handed him his release papers as a convicted plunderer.

Last night, speaking to 5,000 supporters in San Juan City, where he had been king for decades, Estrada even made Ms Arroyo out as his benefactor, enjoining the crowd to give her a big hand for giving him back his freedom.

"*Salamat kay Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sa pagbigay ng executive clemency at kung hindi niya ako binigyan ng executive clemency ay hindi niyo ako kaharap ngayong gabi. Kaya pasalamatan natin siya. Palakpakan natin siya* (Thanks to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for giving me executive clemency because without it, I would not be with you here tonight. So let's thank her. Let's applaud her)," he said.

Estrada, 70, officially became a free man

ERAP BOWS/ A8

Gloria reaps whirlwind of protests

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS reaped a whirlwind of protests with her pardon of convicted plunderer Joseph "Erap" Estrada.

Ms Arroyo's allies in the Senate used strong words in airing their disapproval, and Luis "Chavit" Singson, the man who set in motion the beginning of the end of her ousted predecessor, lamented the "rush" and demanded to know if a "compromise agreement" had accompanied the move.

Even her staunch ally, former President Fidel Ramos, spoke out in China where he was attending a conference to bewail the pardon as "a terrible, terrible calamity to the great, great, great majority of the Filipino people who have suffered from the plunder."

In a press conference yesterday, Sen.

GLORIA/ A9

Business sector divided over GMA decision

By Daxim L. Lucas and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMmerce and Industry (PCCI), an umbrella organization of small and medium enterprises, yesterday said the grant of executive clemency to deposed President Joseph Estrada would "move the country forward to greater economic progress and social harmony."

But the Makati Business Club (MBC), which counts among its members the country's biggest corporations, voiced disappointment over President Macapagal-Ar-

BUSINESS/ A4

Only GMA can forfeit pardon benefits

By Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

ANALYSIS

WITH PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's grant of executive clemency to ousted leader Joseph Estrada, there have arisen a number of interesting questions. Some questions deal with motivation, others with possible consequences, and still others with constitutionality or legality.

Let me just venture some reflections on constitutionality or legality, even if I admit that constitutionality or legality is not everything.

The classic definition of the power of executive clemency comes to us through the words of US Chief Justice John Marshall: "As this power had been exercised from time immemorial by the executive of that nation whose language is our language, and to whose judicial institution ours bear a close resemblance; we adopt their principles respecting the operation and effect of a pardon, and look into their books for the rules prescribing the manner in which it is to be used by the person who would avail himself of it. A pardon is an act of grace, proceeding from the power entrusted with the execution of the laws, which exempts the individual, on whom it is bestowed, from the punishment the law inflicts for a crime

ONLY GMA/ A6

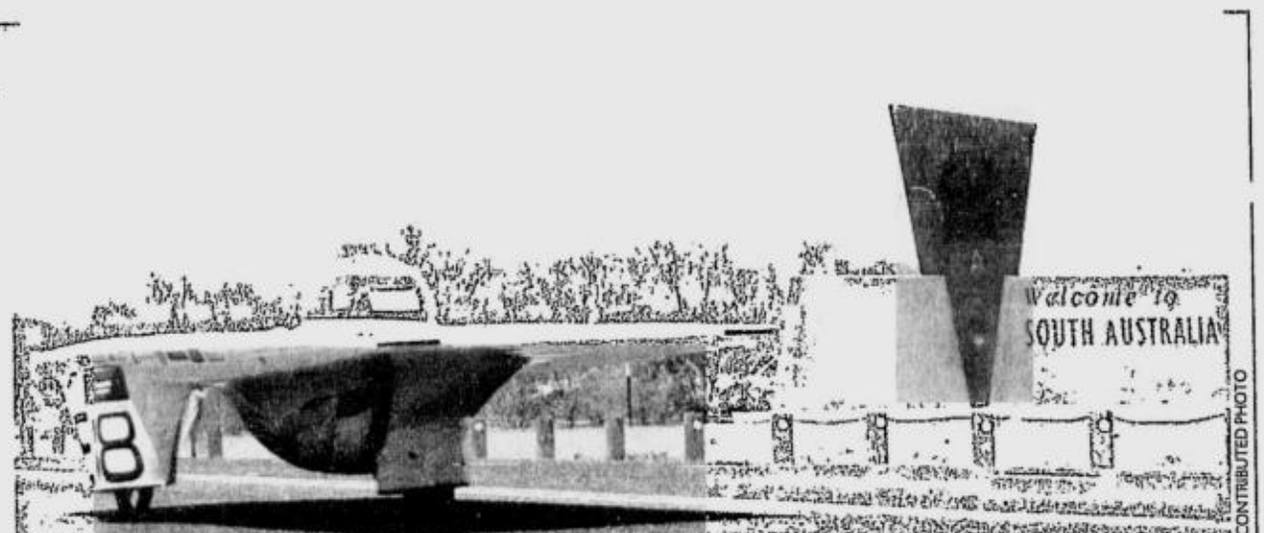
Bishops ask: What about other convicts?

WHAT ABOUT OTHER PRISONERS CONvicted of lesser crimes?

This was one of two questions raised yesterday by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in connection with the pardon extended by President Macapagal-Arroyo to her convicted predecessor.

With Joseph Estrada's "historic" pardon, the "multitude of sins" that it covers will now be left to God's divine mercy to resolve, the influential organization said in a statement signed by its president, Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo of Jaro, Iloilo.

BISHOPS / A10



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LIGHT SPEED. The first Philippine-made solar-powered car, Sinag, crosses the border of the Northern Territory and South Australia on Thursday. The car, backed by a 40-man team from De La Salle University, has traveled some 2,500 kilometers since the start of the 20th World Solar challenge in Darwin, Australia, last week.

Prosecutor plans appeal to high court

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Leila B. Salaverria

THE SPECIAL STATE PROSECUTOR IS studying the "hasty" pardon extended to Joseph Estrada, and may raise questions to the Supreme Court if only to enhance jurisprudence on presidential pardon.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio yesterday told reporters that the pardon extended with "indecent and undue" haste by President Macapagal-Arroyo to her predecessor, a convicted plunderer, deviated hugely

PROSECUTOR/ A8

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2007

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
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GLORIETTA TRAGEDY

NBI initial probe points to accidental gas explosion

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **GMA URGES** public not to be swayed by lies and half-truths /A3

■ **ESPERON: AFP** will comply with orders of SC on missing studes /A3

■ **NAIA ESCORT** racket stopped by immigration /A7

By Tina G. Santos, DJ Yap and Margaux C. Ortiz

INITIAL FINDINGS OF THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation point to an accidental methane gas explosion as the cause of the Oct. 19 explosion at the Glorietta 2 mall in Makati that killed 11 people and wounded more than a hundred others.

According to lawyer Romulo Asis, chief of the NBI antiterrorism division, the explosion could have originated from an accumulation of methane at the basement of the building caused by a malfunctioning sewage system.

Ruel Lasala, deputy director of the NBI's intelligence services, said the NBI supported the Philippine National Police's and Department of Interior and Local Government's gas explosion theory "because so far, there is no evidence to suggest that it was a bomb explosion."

"We're not, however, ruling out other angles or possibilities until such time that the investigation is completed," Lasala said.

Asis said investigators did not find any component of explosive devices, signs of burning or a crate ring at the basement, which are the usual indications of a bomb explosion.

"There were no signs of [a] tearing effect from a bomb explosion," he said.

"The concrete structures were broken into large debris, they were not reduced into small pieces which could have happened had the explosion been caused by an explosive. The explosion came from the basement where the methane gas had accumulated and also from the diesel fuel tank," he said.

Physical evidence

Asis added that physical evidence consisting of liquids and debris, including the victims' clothing, were being examined by NBI chemists.

"Testimonial evidence from the victims were also taken," he said.

The NBI findings also showed that, contrary to a report from the mall operator Ayala Land Inc., the sewage system in Glorietta 2 was not working properly, said Lasala.

Yesterday, four workers, who claimed to have been undertaking repair work on the electric motors and pump generators at the Glorietta 2 basement, showed up at the NBI.

The workers claimed that they had been conducting repairs, particularly the reinstallation of two 7.5 Hp submersible pumps, at the basement until Oct. 18, a day before the explosion occurred.

They told the NBI that the pumping area at the basement was flooded and the electrical connections were old.

Fetid odor

"The workers said that while they were at the basement, they had difficulty breathing because of the fetid odor and there was no proper ventilation," Lasala said.

Meanwhile, rescue workers, police investigators and volunteers who responded to the Oct. 19 explosion at the Glorietta 2 mall have begun complaining of various ailments because of exposure to noxious gases at the blast site.

Many reported feeling irritation to the eyes while others complained of itchiness in the skin, city officials said.

The Makati government said it would provide free health check-ups and medical treatment for all field personnel at the Ospital ng Makati.

Councilor Jun-jun Binay, who headed the Makati rescue team, quoted toxicology experts as saying that eye irritation and skin itchiness were common manifestations of prolonged exposure to the gases at the site, but such symptoms will go away in about a week.

NEWSBRIEFS

Active poll participation

A CATHOLIC PRELATE HAS APPEALED for more active participation in the upcoming barangay and Sangguniang Kabataang (SK) elections on Oct. 29 as candidates' campaigning ends today. In a statement, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president Angel Lagdameo said that if the faithful could take interest in how their churches or parishes operate, they should similarly give the same attention to their barangays.

Lagdameo has also asked the faithful to consciously participate in the affairs of the barangay since it serves as a breeding ground for future leaders. He stressed that the people should guard against partisanship in the barangay elections to protect the barangay's role in providing for the common good. *Beverly Natividad*

'Doing the right thing'

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION IS "DOing the right thing" in addressing extrajudicial killings in the country, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human rights. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday that UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour and UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Killings Philip Alston are convinced the Philippines' human rights record is not that bad as earlier claimed. Ermita met separately with Arbour and Alston in New York this week as part of an "official mission" ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo to update the international community on the steps taken by the government to address the killings. *Michael Lim Ubac*

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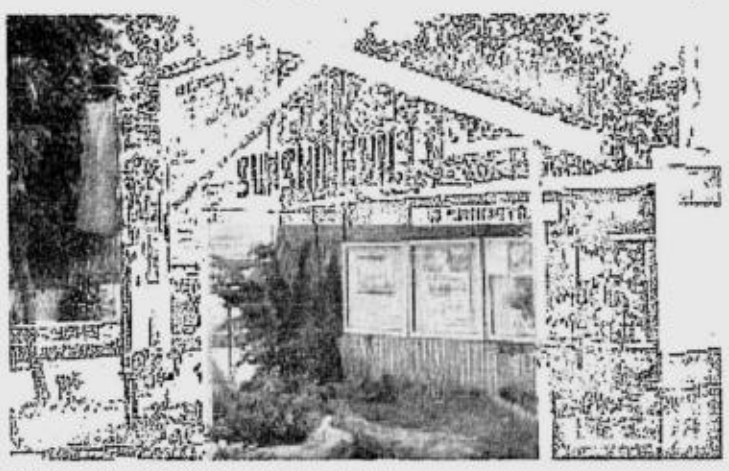
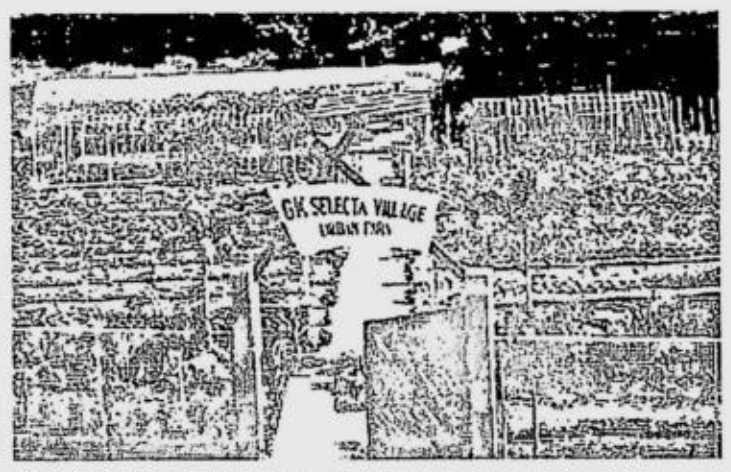


GK Sunshineville (BF Resort, Las Piñas)
For maximizing the potential of basket-woven products that made use of flood-causing waterlilies as raw materials, as initiated by Las Piñas Congresswoman Cynthia Villar. The project, which started as a river rehabilitation project of Rep. Villar, is now a flourishing and environmentally-friendly community enterprise that benefits the GK Kapitbahayan.

GK Freedomville (Sta. Rosa, Laguna)
For its candle-making business endeavor which has not only produced quality candles but also promoted camaraderie and rapport among its residents.



GK Selecta Village (San Andres, Cainta, Rizal)
For laying the foundations for their ingenious urban vegetable, herb and orchid farm cum spa and café, which has not only increased community productivity but also spurred involvement and innovativeness among its members.

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8:30–9:00 Registration • 9:00–10:30 Teenpreneur Challenge: Judging Proper • 10:30–12:00 Lecture and Open Forum with Panelists: ESA Judges with PCE Partner Entrepreneurs • 12:00–1:00 Entertainment: ESA Participating Schools Inter-School Presentation • 1:00–2:30 Main Forum with PCE – GoNegosyo

Gabi Ng Parangal
7:00–7:15 Opening Remarks • 7:15–7:30 Awarding of the GK-GoNegosyo Most Inspiring Entrepreneurial Communities for 2007 • 7:30 GK Presentations and Concerts

*Panelists:
Joey Concepcion III (PCE),Sec. Cerge Remonde (PMS), Sec. Arthur Yap (DA), Vivienne Tan (ESA), Tony Meloto (GK), Les Reyes (Reyes Haircutters), Toto Barcelona (Harbest), Nancy Busacay (Bitick Women's Cooperative, GoNegosyo CAR Most Inspiring Entrepreneur Awardee), Dr. Eugenio Dayag (Cattle Ranch Owner, GoNegosyo OFW Most Inspiring Entrepreneur Awardee), Jomar Fleras (Santuario Spa, GoNegosyo Tourism Most Inspiring Entrepreneur Awardee, representatives from GoNegosyo-Gawad Kalinga Most Inspiring Entrepreneurial Community Awardees 2006 (Darwin Flores of GK Smart Village in Quezon, Rudy Lubis of GK Robinhood Village in Bukidnon and Harvey Maraquinot, GK Reunion Village in Batangas), Host: Karen Davila

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Don't be swayed by half truths, GMA tells public

By Christine O. Avendaño

A DAY AFTER SHE WAS ACcused of being the force behind the controversial national broadband network deal, President Macapagal-Arroyo called on the people not to be swayed by "half-truths, lies and partisan intrigues."

At the 33rd Philippine Businessmen Conference at the Manila Hotel, President Arroyo took the occasion to respond to the claim of businessman Jose "Joey" De Venecia III that she was behind China's ZTE Corp. bagging the $329-million NBN contract which she has since scrapped amid reports it was attended by bribery and overpricing.

Speaking again on her administration's bid to reduce poverty in the country by investing in reforms for "our economic, social and moral life," she called on all sectors "to do their bit to strengthen society's moral fiber."

"Even as we call on everyone not to be swayed by half-truths, lies and partisan intrigues," the President added.

De Venecia had also told a Senate inquiry the other day that Ms Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, was promised a $70 million bribe by those pushing for the ZTE contract.

Ms Arroyo's husband has denied any involvement in the deal and asked the Senate to prevent De Venecia from testifying in its hearings, saying the latter was making up "fairy tales."

A staunch ally of the President in the House of Representatives has also assailed the credibility of De Venecia.

Manila Rep. Amado Bagatsing said the persons quoted by De Venecia, the son and namesake of Speaker Jose de Venecia, in his testimony have all denied his statements made under oath.

Bagatsing said that even retired Lt. Gen. Jaime delos Santos who supposedly warned De Venecia about a plot to kill him by Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and two other retired police officers has denied doing so.

"The bottom line is that people have consistently disowned statements attributed to them by the son of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.," Bagatsing said.

With a report from Norman Bordadora

2 senators seek SC help on NBN papers

SENATORS MAR ROXAS AND Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III yesterday asked the Supreme Court to require the National Economic Development Authority to provide the Senate with transcripts and documents about the controversial national broadband network deal so as not to cover up an allegedly criminal act.

The lawmakers questioned Neda Director General Augusto Santos' invocation of executive privilege in refusing to heed the Senate's subpoena for the said documents.

They said executive privilege could not be invoked to cover up criminal acts, and alleged that Senate committees that have held hearings on the NBN contract have acquired evidence that the information being sought dealt with criminal activity. *Leila B. Salaverria*

We'll comply with SC order, says Esperon

By Nikko Dizon

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. yesterday said the military will comply with the orders of the Supreme Court following its landmark issuance of the writ of amparo in the cases of two missing university students and two brothers who escaped from military detention last year.

"The matter is still under very serious study. Can't comment now but we are taking steps to fully comply," Esperon said.

Esperon and President Macapagal-Arroyo, who were among the respondents named in the two cases, were ordered to explain or to file a return whether they had students Karen Empeno and Sherlyn Cadapan in their custody and answer charges that they had abducted and tortured brothers Raymond and Reynaldo Manalo.

The Manalo brothers sought for protection from the Supreme Court after they escaped from military detention.

They claimed to have seen Empeno and Cadapan, students of the University of the Philippines, who have been missing since June last year and were believed to have been abducted by Army soldiers.

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Business sector divided over GMA decision

From page A1

royo's decision, saying it sent the wrong message.

"It looks like we're letting the big fish go away," MBC executive director Alberto Lim said, adding instances such as this were one reason for the Philippines' low governance ratings in international competitiveness surveys.

Ramon del Rosario Jr., chair of the MBC board of trustees, said pardoning a convicted ex-president at this time reinforced the view that the powerful were above the law.

"Business does best where the rule of law prevails," Del Rosario said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

The MBC has been known to take an adversarial stance toward Malacañang, while the PCCI has traditionally supported policies of the incumbent administration.

PCCI chair Donald Dee said the pardon was "good for the country" and would "help stabilize the nation."

The time has come "to heal the wounds of the nation," the chamber said in a statement. "The clemency will leave behind the divisiveness and recriminations of the past."

Harping on the theme of its just-concluded conference on competitiveness, the PCCI called on the business community "to stand behind the government in this act of uniting the nation as 'one global Filipino.'"

In a separate interview, PCCI president Samie Lim said he planned to bring together three of the country's former leaders—Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada—and President Macapagal-Arroyo in a forum to map out the country's direction.

"I would personally want to see the four living Presidents come together to discuss the direction that this country should take for the next 20 years," he said.

Other voices

Ms Arroyo's grant of pardon to Estrada was also supported by other sectors of the business community.

Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at ING Investment Management Inc., considered the pardon "a net positive" for financial markets.

"This sort of defuses the tense political situation. The Arroyo administration has been plagued by allegations of corruption and bribery. It (pardon) should give a temporary respite to the embattled administration," Garcia said.

Francisco Liboro, president of PCCI Securities, said the executive clemency should improve political stability that, in turn, should enhance economic growth.

"The pardon should not have a direct effect on the business climate but political stability, if resulting from this, should enhance economic growth. The market is moving up on strong fundamentals due to economic growth and corporate earnings," Liboro said.

Francis Lim, president of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), earlier said that a reconciliation between Estrada and Ms Arroyo would lead to greater national unity.

"We in the PSE welcome the decision of former President Estrada to seek a pardon; we hope Mr. Estrada's reconciliatory action and government's favorable response to the overture will mark the start of a process to unite our people," Lim had said.

"A reconciliation between the administration and the leader of a major opposition group led by Mr. Estrada will further enhance the allure of the Philippines as a business site and hasten the flow of investments, not only to our stock market, but also to strategic local industries," Lim added.

Skirting punishment

Even so, a director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines said Estrada's plea for pardon was not a move aimed at achieving reconciliation but an act aimed at skirting legal punishment.

"Political amnesty should not be used as a tool to serve just anybody's purpose. In the long run, it's negative for business. It will send the wrong signal since we're letting the big fish get away," Astro del Castillo said.

"It will not be a welcome relief for investors. The courts decided he is guilty. He should be punished. We don't want to encourage political officials convicted of corruption to just seek amnesty or forgiveness. It could set a bad precedent."

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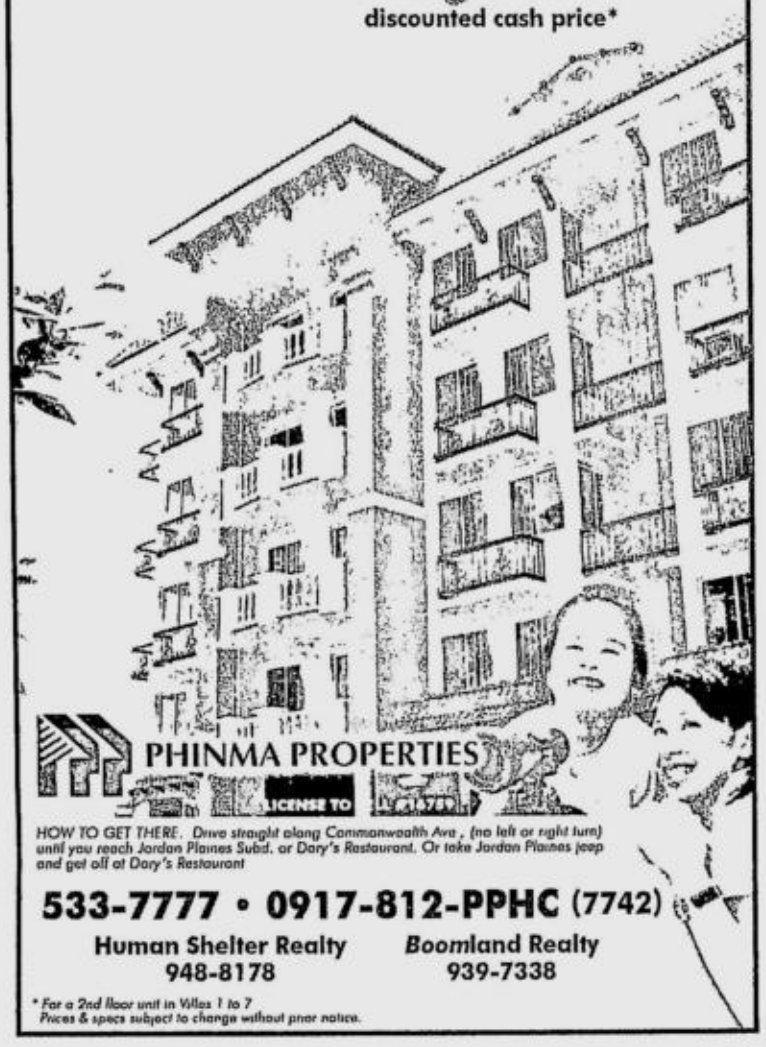

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PANTY POWER. A woman activist holds up a pair of undies with the message "Free Burma now" during Friday's rally outside the Embassy of Burma in Makati City. REUTERS

Women activists banking ...

From page A1

hurled thongs, red bikinis, even granny underwear at the Embassy of Burma in Makati City yesterday, in an odd but culturally relevant protest targeting the military junta's violent crackdown on prodemocracy demonstrations in Burma (Myanmar).

Mirroring protests in Australia, the United Kingdom and Thailand, the "panty protest" held particular significance for members of the junta who believe any contact with women's undergarments could sap their strength.

Thus, while the act of throwing one's panties at rock stars may be considered a sign of admiration here, to Burma's superstitious military generals, the gesture is high insult.

"We wanted to hit them where it hurts," said Isagani Abunda, campaign officer of the Free Burma Coalition Philippines, which organized yesterday's demonstration in front of the embassy on Amorsolo Street.

Political statement

"We believe all diplomacy has failed ... And this is the only way we can connect with them," Abunda said. "More than an insult to the junta, for us, it is a political statement that the people have had enough."

He said the demonstration was meant to commemorate the beginning of the military junta's violent dispersal of protests led by Buddhist monks and roundups of suspected dissidents a month ago.

Since then, all communication, including the Internet, had been cut off in the country.

"Officially, only a few deaths from the protesters' side have been reported but despite scant information, it's clear that much more deaths and atrocities are being committed there," Abunda said.

Free Burma now

Abunda cited reports of the bloody raids of monasteries with hundreds of monks unaccounted for, and accounts of protesters being burned alive, among other atrocities.

Yesterday, a crowd of about 60 women and 10 men trooped to the embassy to throw more than 3 dozen panties, Abunda said. Written on the underwear were the words, "Free Burma Now!"

After a brief program where they denounced the junta's oppressive practices, the women led by Alliance of Progressive Labor-Women spokesperson Marlene Sindayen collected the panties.

No security guard or policeman came to disperse the demonstration, but Abunda noted that the Burmese flag that used to hang outside the building had been removed.

The demonstrators belong to militant labor organizations like the APL-Women, Partido ng Manggagawa and Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, and the advocacy group, Initiatives for International Dialogue.

Lingerie diplomacy

Meanwhile, a prodemocracy group based in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai is urging people all over the world to "post, deliver or fling" their undergarments to Burma's international embassies.

"The Burma military regime is not only brutal but very superstitious. They believe that contact with a woman's panties or sarong can rob them of their power," the Lanna Action for Burma group said on its website.

The generals who rule Burma provoked international outcry in September when they violently cracked down on peaceful protesters, killing at least 13 people.

The European Union and the United States led the chorus of disapproval, announcing new sanctions against the regime.

Despite the outcry and a United Nations statement deploring the crackdown and urging dialogue, the junta has shown little sign of moving any closer toward democracy or freeing opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Those behind the so-called "panty power" campaign hope that lingerie can succeed where international diplomacy has so far failed. ***With a report from AFP***

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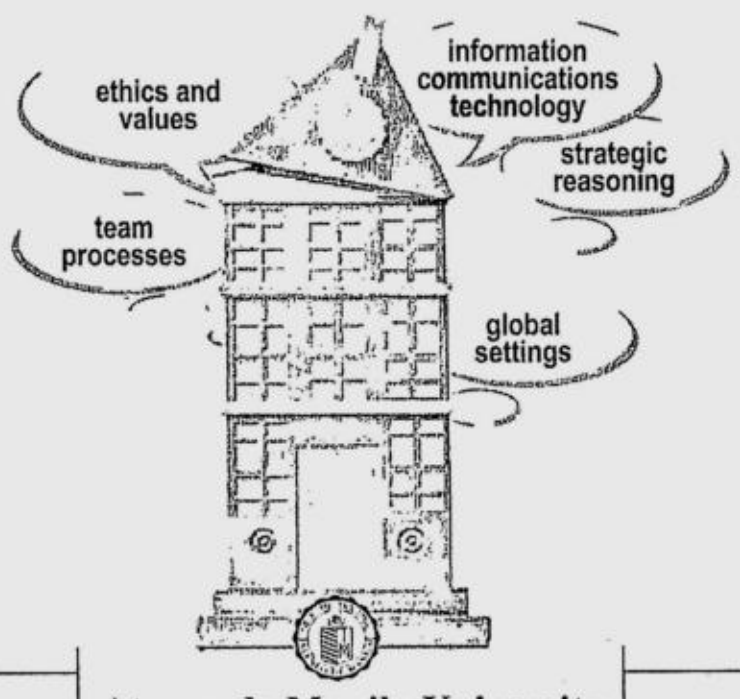

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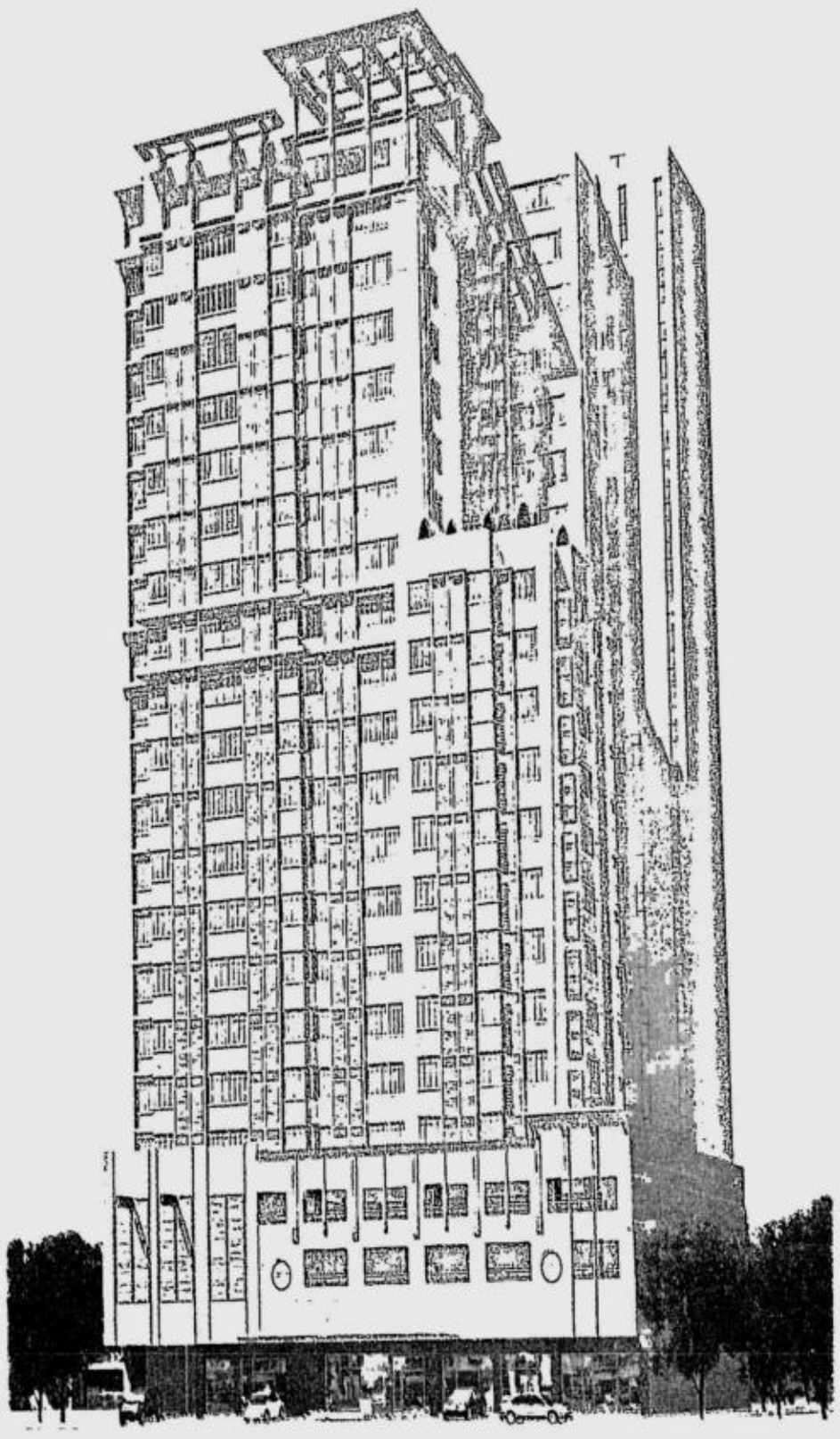

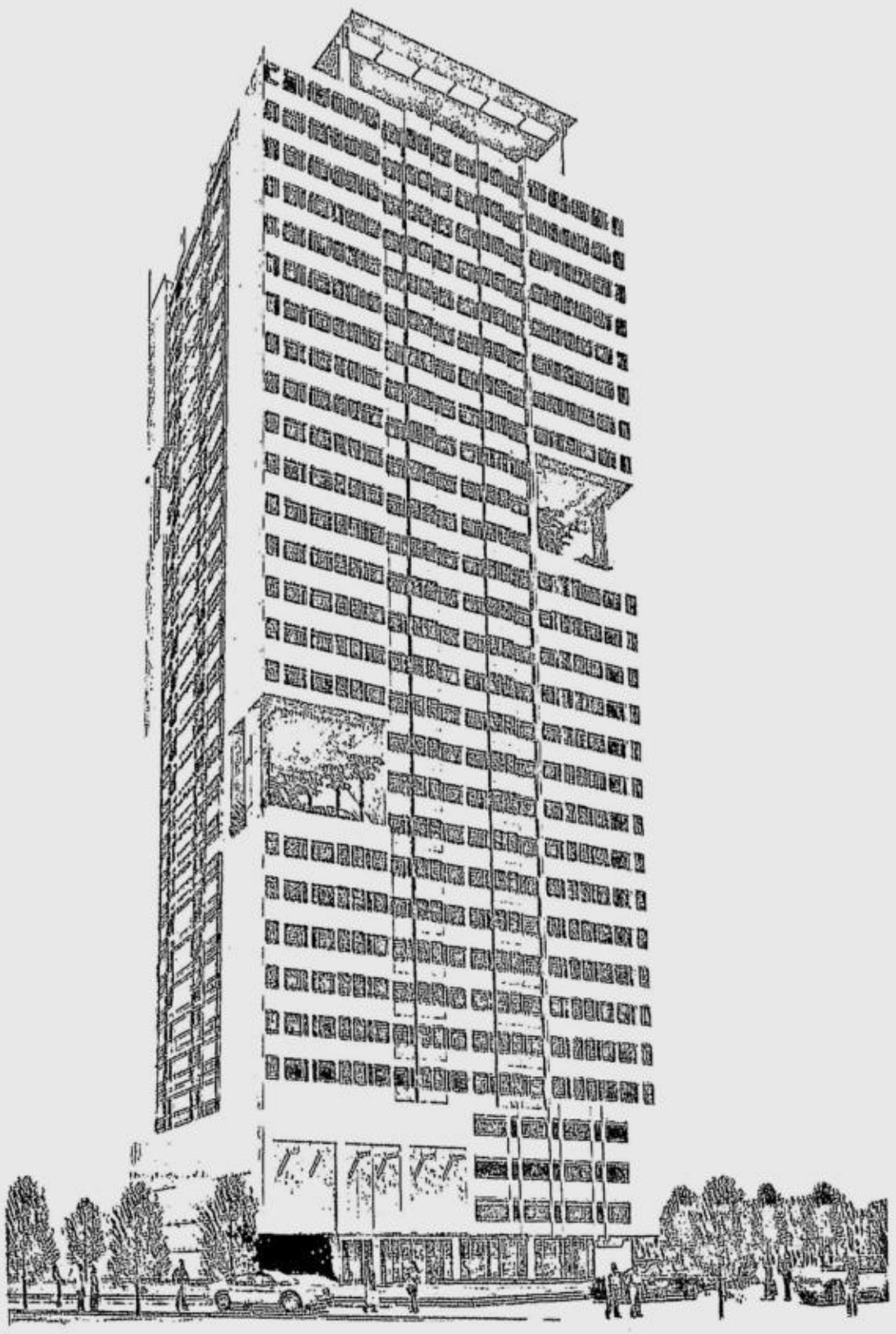

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From page A1

he has committed."

And as another justice elaborated: "A pardon in our days is not a private act of grace from an individual happening to possess power. It is a part of the constitutional scheme. When granted, it is the determination of the ultimate authority that the public welfare will be better served by inflicting less than what the judgment fixed."

3 limitations

The ultimate authority, of course, is the President. Our Constitution places only three limitations on the President's power of executive clemency.

First, pardon can only be given after final conviction. In the case of Estrada, his conviction became final upon the withdrawal of his motion for reconsideration.

Second, pardon of election offenses can be granted only upon the recommendation of the Commission on Elections. No election offense is involved here.

Third, pardon cannot be given in cases of impeachment. This third limitation needs to be explained.

An impeachment trial can end in conviction and the consequent imposition of the penalties of removal from office and disqualification to hold office in the Republic. These are the only penalties allowed in impeachment cases. The Constitution says that these penalties cannot be removed by pardon.

For Estrada, however, this limitation is irrelevant because his impeachment did not end in conviction.

2 kinds of pardon

Under our law, moreover, there are two kinds of pardon—absolute pardon and conditional pardon. An absolute pardon is one with no strings attached. A conditional pardon is one to which are attached certain requirements which the convict must observe at the risk of nullification of the pardon.

There is still some debate as to whether an absolute pardon needs acceptance. But it is firmly established that a conditional pardon needs to be accepted because the intended beneficiary might find the condition more onerous than the penalty itself.

As one justice observed: "The grace of a pardon may be only a pretense . . . involving consequences of even greater disgrace than those from which it purports to relieve."

Strings attached

From the tenor of the pardon instrument made public by the President, it is clear that the pardon granted is not without strings attached.

The document says: "He is hereby restored to his civil and political rights." But then it continues: "The forfeitures imposed by the Sandiganbayan remain in force and in full, including all writs and processes issued by the Sandiganbayan in pursuance hereof, except for the bank account(s) he owned before his tenure as President."

And it also says: "Upon acceptance of this pardon by JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, this pardon shall take effect."

What do these mean?

Clearly the pardon needs acceptance, and clearly Estrada has accepted its terms.

Clearly also the forfeitures imposed by the Sandiganbayan have not been lifted. And I am assuming that the enumerated properties remain intact.

Civil, political rights

The pardon too restores Estrada's civil and political rights. But what rights? Certainly the right to vote has been restored. But do the restored "civil and political rights" include the right to run for office?

The language of the document suggests that the right to run for office has not been restored. I say this because the clause "WHEREAS, Joseph Ejercito Estrada has publicly committed to no longer seek any elective position or office" is followed by the clause "IN VIEW HEREOF . . . I hereby grant executive clemency to JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA . . ."

Thus the grant of pardon is linked to his not running for office in the future.

What will happen if he runs for office? The accepted jurisprudence is that violation of the condition of a pardon results in the forfeiture of the benefits of the pardon.

And the interesting thing is that, when it comes to the interpretation of whether the condition of a pardon has been violated, our jurisprudence says that it is the President and not the courts who makes the judgment.

Estrada's assurance

But my impression is that this issue is also irrelevant in the case of Estrada because he has given every assurance that he just wants now to be a private, even if very concerned, citizen.

Finally, it has been suggested that the acting secretary of justice made her recommendation in too much of a rush. But constitutionally the justice secretary's recommendation is not needed and, even if given, can be rejected.

The power of executive clemency belongs to the President alone and is constitutionally shared with no one.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 27, 2007
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 8:1-11
Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Some persons told Jesus what had occurred in the Temple: Pilate had Galileans killed and their blood mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus replied, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this? I tell you: no. But unless you change your ways, you will all perish as they did.

"And those 18 persons in Siloah who were crushed when the tower fell, do you think they were more guilty than all the others in Jerusalem? I tell you: no. But unless you change your ways, you will all perish as they did."

And Jesus continued with this story, "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it, but found none. Then he said to the gardener: 'Look here, for three years now I have been looking for figs on this tree and I have found none. Cut it down, why should it use up the ground?' The gardener replied: 'Leave it one more year, so that I may dig around it and add some fertilizer; and perhaps it will bear fruit from now on. But if it doesn't, you can cut it down."

Commentary

We live in the power and the law of the Spirit of Jesus and in the freedom of the children of God. Do we live according to that Spirit in all things? The Spirit needs flesh to work in the world, to work in our flesh. We must make sure that all we do tends towards life and peace. If we revert back to being controlled by our desires and the world's selfishness than we cannot please God. But we have the Spirit of God and so we live with justice. The Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is the Spirit that has been given to us and we are to know that resurrection in our bodies even now. Do we practice resurrection?

Jesus warns those who listen to him that we all must repent and change. What happens to people—how they die, or are killed—doesn't necessarily mean that they are being punished. We are all guilty of evil and injustice but we are all given the command to bear fruit that is holiness and goodness. It is late in the year—maybe a month left before we offer this year 2007 to God. Is there fruit that God would want or are we sadly lacking and without anything to give God for this year? There is still time—repent!

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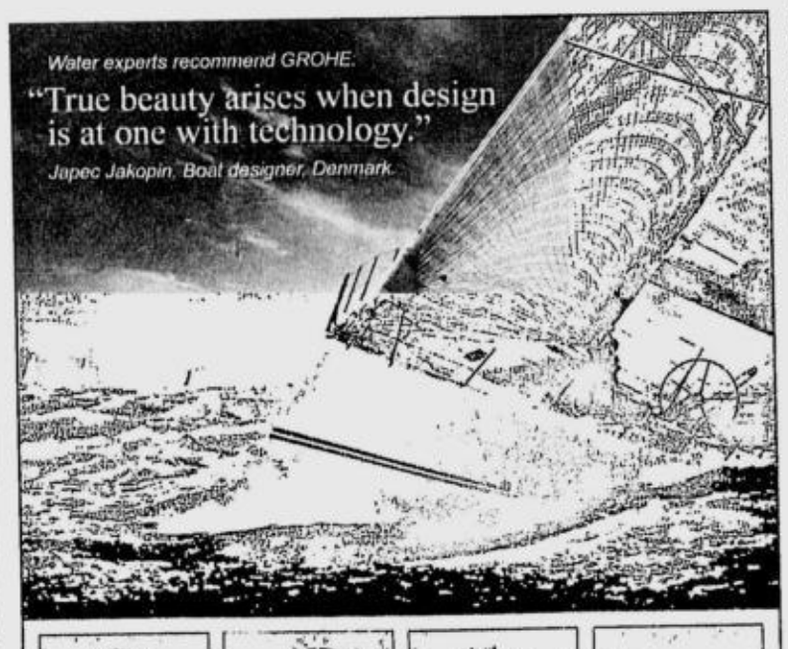

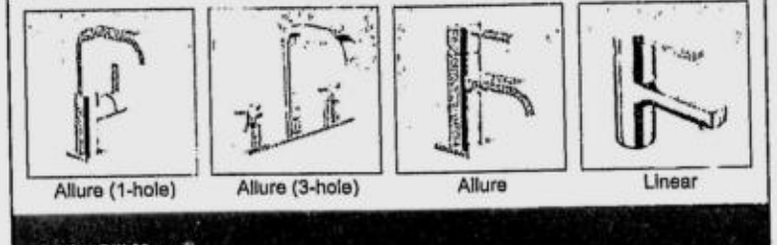

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BID stops Naia escort racket

THE BUREAU OF Immigration (BI) has eased the rules on departing Filipino travelers in a bid to stop the escort racket at airports and eliminate corruption among the bureau's personnel.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan yesterday issued a memorandum simplifying the guidelines that airport immigration officers should observe in processing Filipino passengers leaving the country.

Libanan directed immigration officers at the airport's departure counters to allow any passenger to depart upon mere presentation of "a valid passport, a valid visa where required, and a return ticket when necessary."

"The creation of the new policy was prompted by allegations that some immigration officers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) are extorting money from departing overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) so they would not be offloaded from their flights supposedly due to incomplete travel documents," Libanan said.

The BI chief also stopped immigration officers from requiring departing passenger to submit other documents such as "show money" or proof of financial capacity.

However, government officials and employees are still required to present their travel authority while unaccompanied minors must submit proper clearance from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Margaux C. Ortiz

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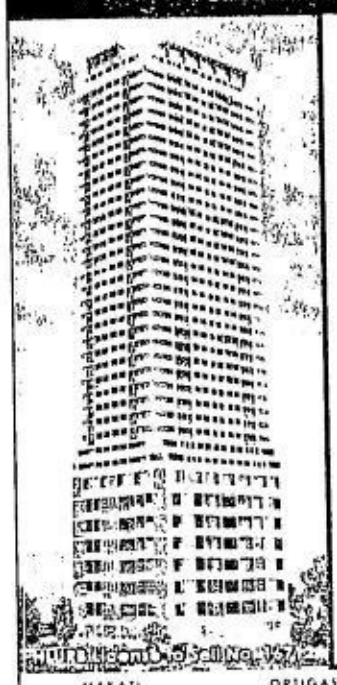

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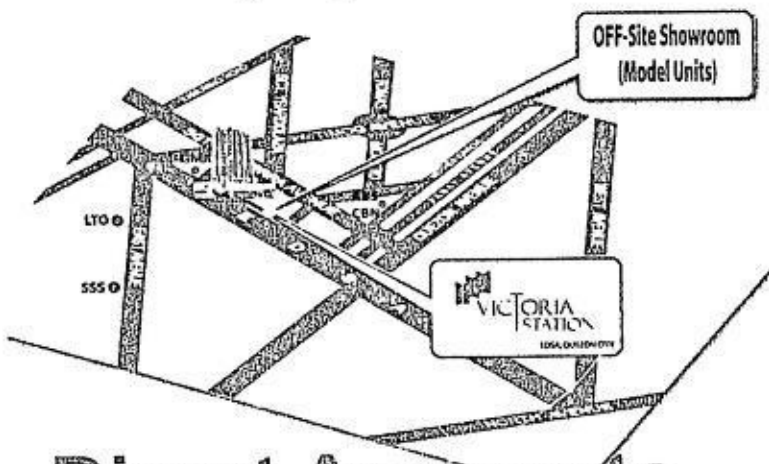

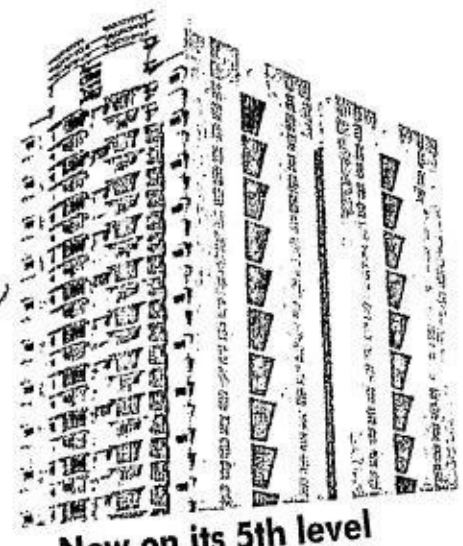

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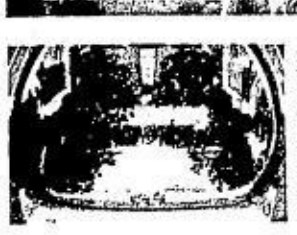

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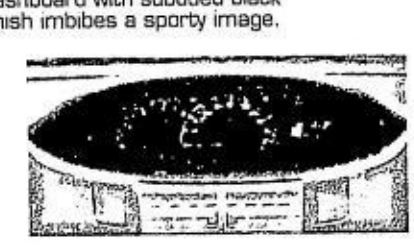

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Erap bows to GMA power

From page A1

at 5:30 p.m.—exactly six years, nine months and six days since his fall from power.

After a brief, frenzied photo opportunity with the press, the ousted President was immediately whisked out of his Tanay, Rizal, vacation estate, his place of detention for more than three years.

"There is no substitute for freedom," Estrada told reporters before leaving Tanay.

As dusk fell, a 50-vehicle convoy—including police cars, media vans, and some 20 jeepneys ferrying his supporters who came from depressed areas in Metro Manila—charged down the slopes of the Sierra Madre to bring the former VIP prisoner to a grand celebration awaiting him at his San Juan bailiwick.

Mobs of supporters, screaming *"Erap, Erap, Erap pa rin* (Still for Erap)," and jostling around his van, gave their idol a frenzied welcome in San Juan.

Most of the crowd who had been waiting for him all day in front of the San Juan City Hall cheered, ecstatic at the homecoming of Citizen Estrada.

Some cried, some reached out to touch him.

'President Arroyo'

Earlier, Estrada made several unprecedented gestures in a statement, referring to Ms Arroyo as "President," thanking her for his restored liberty, and expressing his support for her programs for the poor.

"I thank President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for granting me full, free, and absolute pardon midway through her term," Estrada said in a statement read by his former political adviser and coaccused, Edward Serapio, before the convoy left Tanay.

"I also thank those who have demonstrated not only their genuine concern for my welfare but also for that of our people, either by asking Ms Arroyo in the past to grant me executive clemency or by now giving wholehearted support to this grant of pardon, in the spirit of unity and reconciliation," Estrada said.

Being an elected leader himself, Estrada said: "I am aware of the agonizing times and tough choices that Ms Arroyo had to wade through before arriving at this executive decision."

History will vindicate

He said he also went through "excruciating times before deciding to take on her long-standing peace overtures to the political opposition."

He cited that as reason he withdrew his appeal to the Sandiganbayan to reverse its Sept. 12 verdict finding him guilty of plunder and sentencing him to spend the rest of his life in prison.

But in a remark apparently addressed to parties who criticized his pardon, Estrada said: "I believe that history will vindicate not only this executive action (of Ms Arroyo) but my innocence as well with regard to these charges."

The former movie star and most controversial Philippine president after dictator Ferdinand Marcos said he now wished "to spend the rest of my life as plain Citizen Erap."

It wasn't only Estrada who sounded grateful to Ms Arroyo. From somewhere in Europe, the travelling Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who had been harshly critical of the President before, spoke on radio to thank her profusely.

Teary-eyed Puno

Estrada signed the pardon papers at around 3:30 p.m., according to his media coordinator Angel Gonong, who witnessed the proceedings at the tightly guarded Tanay estate and gave the media an account of what happened.

The document was brought from Camp Crame by Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno via a Philippine National Police helicopter, which landed inside the property near Estrada's recently built museum and archives.

The signing took just about five minutes.

Puno, who sat at the table next Estrada, appeared teary-eyed and was even humored by his former boss. Puno had served as Estrada's own interior secretary.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

By the President of the Philippines

PARDON

WHEREAS this administration has a policy of releasing inmates who have reached the age of seventy (70),

WHEREAS, Joseph Ejercito Estrada has been under detention for six and a half years,

WHEREAS, Joseph Ejercito Estrada has publicly committed to no longer seek any elective position or office,

IN VIEW HEREOF and pursuant to the authority conferred upon me by the Constitution, I hereby grant executive clemency to **JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA,** *convicted by the Sandiganbayan of Plunder and imposed a penalty of Reclusion Perpetua. He is hereby restored to his civil and political rights.*

The forfeitures imposed by the Sandiganbayan remain in force and in full, including all writs and processes issued by the Sandiganbayan in pursuance hereof, except for the bank account(s) he owned before his tenure as President.

Upon acceptance of this pardon **JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA,** *this pardon shall take effect.*

Given under my hand at the City of Manila, this 25th Day of October, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and seven.

Gloria M. Arroyo

By the President:

IGNACIO R. BUNYE
Acting Executive Secretary

Received & accepted
26 Oct. '07
TIME: 3:35 PM

Caring for mother

"Pare, thank you, cool *ka lang* (Just stay cool)," Estrada was heard telling Puno, according to Gonong.

The signed papers were then rushed to the Sandiganbayan by a police officer via the same helicopter.

Two hours later, Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta arrived via helicopter—with the papers setting Estrada free.

Estrada's statement was read out by Serapio at the gates of his Tanay property at around noon.

Saying the country's war on poverty had yet to be won, Estrada said: "I believe I can best continue to repay our people the blessings that God has so graciously given me by supporting from hereon the programs of Mrs. Arroyo that are intended to attack generational poverty and hunger.

"We must now as a nation attend to our people's continuing clamor for food on their tables, roofs above their heads, and better education and health care for their children."

Release order

Estrada also indicated he would spend the next few days attending "to my foremost business at hand, which is to take care of my long ailing mother," referring to his seriously ill mother, Mary Ejercito, aged 102.

The Sandiganbayan Special Division allowed Estrada's release in a two-page order which reached Sheriff Urieta only at exactly 5 p.m.—closing time of the anti-graft court—much to the relief of Estrada's lawyer, Jose Flaminiano, who had been awaiting for the papers since 9 a.m.

"In accordance with the aforesaid executive clemency, the terms of which the former President has accepted, let former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada be released from detention ... unless [he is] being held for another charge or lawful cause," read the order.

The release order was signed by Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo De Castro and Associate Justices Diosdado Peralta and Godofredo Legaspi.

However, in pardoning Estrada, Ms Arroyo declared that the forfeiture of the ousted leader's property and money ordered by the antigraft court would remain "in force and in full."

Forfeited assets

The antigraft court has ordered the forfeiture to the government of Estrada's P545.291-million "jueteng" payoffs with interest, including the P200 million deposited in a bank account of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation; the P189-million commission from the purchase of Belle Corp. shares and the "Boracay Mansion" in New Manila, Quezon City.

People flocked to the San Juan City Hall as early as Thursday evening, enduring both the heat and the drizzles just to see Estrada.

Estrada arrived at around 7:25 p.m.

Crying, smiling supporters and two marching bands—one from San Juan City and the other sent by United Opposition leader and Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay—struck up a lively tune when Estrada's convoy arrived.

He waved at the crowd before going inside the City Hall with his son Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora.

Estrada had been expected at the City Hall since around 1 p.m.

But Puno, who spearheaded the talks between the Estrada and Arroyo camps, was delayed in delivering the pardon papers for Estrada to sign.

Outside the City Hall, before Estrada arrived, the mood was festive and people gathered under orange buntings and flags as though in a fiesta.

Marching bands provided live music and rendition of popular pop songs. Some loyalists danced to amuse themselves while waiting. Others carried homemade banners and pictures of the former President.

They vowed to wait for him until kingdom come.

From the City Hall, Estrada proceeded to the San Juan Medical Center to check on the condition of her mother, sustained by life-support machines.

Family members cheered when he arrived at his Polk Street home.

It was at Polk where he was arrested on April 26, 2001 at around 1 p.m. by a massive contingent of police that included hundreds who had surrounded the house.

A buffet for about 200 guests awaited him at the wide lawn. By 9 p.m., he was dining with former members of his Cabinet as well as Senate President Manny Villar.

Tables covered in white linens were set up under a tent. Dinner was catered by Via Mare, one of Manila's sought after catering companies.

Dishes included pancit palabok, lechon, and caldereta. Native rice cakes, such as puto bumbong and halo-halo, were served for desserts. There were also vegetable dishes. ***With reports from AP and Reuters***

'President felt good after agony'

From page A1

"Chavit" Singson, the erstwhile gambling buddy of Estrada, against hastily granting pardon to her predecessor.

On the other hand, Ms Arroyo took note of the call for absolute pardon for Estrada made by Speaker Jose de Venecia, Senate President Manuel Villar, Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

'Love begets love'

Remonde said "Christian values won," when asked whether it meant that Puno had won the upper hand in the "great debate" in the Cabinet over whether to pardon Estrada.

"The decision has been made. We hope that everyone will accept that decision."

Remonde said the pardon was not intended to dissuade the opposition in the House of Representatives from joining the latest impeachment move against her.

"That was no consideration (but) we just hope that will be an effect under the principle of *amor con amor se paga* (love begets love)," said Remonde.

Remonde said Ms Arroyo revisited history in making her decision.

"She studied precedents," he said, to wit:

- The grant of special pardon in 1997 by South Korean President Kim Dae-jung to former Presidents Chun Doo-hwan, convicted of treason, and Roh Tae-woo, convicted of bribery, who were respectively meted out the death sentence and a 22-year prison term.
- The grant of amnesty to former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by President Pervez Musharraf, thus corruption charges against her were withdrawn in 2007 following a 10-year exile.

Ordinary folk

Speaking at the 33rd Philippine Business Conference, Ms Arroyo indicated that the feelings of the ordinary folk who had remained loyal to Estrada were a factor in her decision.

"It is out of sensitivity to the feelings of the segments of our *'masa'* who continue to identify with his personal circumstances," she said.

"Let us now all pray, reflect and join hands to make the Estrada pardon a powerful force for righteousness, compassion, healing, national stability and advancement," she said.

Ms Arroyo acknowledged that the grant of pardon "will be debated, welcomed, criticized and given all sorts of meanings and motives."

But she said her decision was in keeping with one of her goals in her 10-point program—"that hopefully by 2010, the divisive issues generated by Edsa 1, 2 and what some call Edsa 3 will be just memories."

Time for release

Explaining her decision, Ms Arroyo said: "Former President Estrada is now more than 70 years old. It is time to release him as well, and time for him to be at the bedside of his dying mother. Many of our leaders, public and private, agree."

She also pointed to the pardons granted to disgraced leaders of other nations, including the late US President Richard Nixon.

But Ms Arroyo said she saw similarity in the country's circumstances with South Korea when Kim Dae-jung pardoned two former presidents.

She said Kim did this in order to reunite his country and enable it to focus on repairing its economy hit by the Asian financial crisis.

Ms Arroyo said the Philippines could have done better economically had it not been confronted with the Estrada problem.

"If we have been able to achieve 7.5-percent growth with what's happening now, imagine what we'd have achieved if we did not have such a divisive nation," she said.

Uniting country

For his part, Vice President Noli de Castro urged Estrada to use his freedom in uniting the country.

"This will hopefully pave the way for national reconciliation," De Castro said.

In Davao City, visiting opposition Sen. Loren Legarda said the pardon "will send a signal of healing of some wounds."

Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles said it was about time the country moved on as far as the issue of the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency was concerned.

"This is the political closure on this case," he said.

Possible kingmaker

Muntinlupa City Mayor Aldrin San Pedro of the United Opposition hailed the grant of pardon as "a move that will heal political wounds."

Lanao del Norte Rep. Vicente Belmonte said: "Estrada can still be a kingmaker."

In Butuan City, eight lawmakers allied with Ms Arroyo—Representatives Guillermo Romarate Jr., Francisco Matugas, Edelmiro Amante, Jose Aquino, Rodolfo Plaza, Glenda Ecleo, Philip Pichay and Florencia Garay—expressed hope the grant of pardon would pave the way for an economic takeoff.

Some don't care

Both Presidential Adviser for Eastern Visayas Victor Domingo and Leyte Mayors' League president Roque Tiu said the pardon could lessen political tension.

Reactions from ordinary people were mixed.

"Wala na ako pakialam kay Estrada. Bahala na siya sa buhay niya (I don't care about him anymore. Let him do what he wants to do with his life," a Batangas storekeepeer, Antonio Anoran, said.

Paul Vincent Edrada, 20, an agriculture scholar in Palawan, said in Filipino: "It's just right that he is pardoned. After all, it wasn't clearly proven that he had committed a crime." ***With reports from Norman Bordadora, Cynthia D. Balana, Allison W. Lopez, Julie M. Aurelio, and Delfin Mallari Jr., Romulo Ponte, Redempto Anda, Marlon Alexander Luistro, Niña Catherine Calleja, Ephraim Aguila, Marlon Ramos and Donna Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Franklin A. Caliguid, Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Joselle Badilla, Rizalene Acac, Aquiles Zonio, Grace Albasin, Julie Alipala, Orlando Dinoy, Franklin Caliguid, Alvin Añonuevo, Charlie Señase, Ryan Rosauro and Richel Umel, Inquirer Mindanao; and Felipe Celino, Joey Gabieta and Carla Gomez, Inquirer Visayas***

Prosecutor plans appeal to high court

From page A1

from procedures that members of the executive branch had themselves approved.

He said Ms Arroyo's move lacked transparency and might have overlooked a provision in the Constitution denying pardon to convicts in cases of impeachment.

Villa-Ignacio pointed out that Estrada was impeached by the House of Representatives in 2000 and subsequently underwent an impeachment trial at the Senate.

The trial may have been halted, but Section 19, Article VII of the law speaks of impeachment, and not conviction, he said.

"We will have to study if this provision applies to Mr. Estrada ... Our agenda now is to study the whole scenario and the events that transpired after the declaration of the Sandiganbayan making its judgment final and executory," Villa-Ignacio said.

"And if we see that there are things worth raising with the Supreme Court, we will, if only to enhance jurisprudence on pardon involving cases of impeachment," he said.

Villa-Ignacio reiterated that the pardon extended to the ousted President was badly timed. He said neither the government nor the community had had the chance to "digest or appreciate" the significance of Estrada's conviction early this month.

"This is really a sad day for the Office of the Special Prosecutor," he lamented.

Addressing questions on the legality of the grant of pardon to Estrada, acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said all the legal bases were covered when Ms Arroyo made the decision.

Devanadera pointed out that Estrada's impeachment trial had been cut short, and that he had "constructively resigned"—as the Supreme Court found when it ruled on the legitimacy of Ms Arroyo's succession as President in 2001.

"The legitimacy issue was decided in favor of [Ms Arroyo]. It's clear, isn't it? So where is the impeachment here? We watched the impeachment [trial]. It did not find its final and ultimate conclusion. Didn't we walk out because of the envelope?" she told reporters, referring to the walkout of the prosecutors when Estrada's allies in the Senate voted not to open an envelope supposedly containing damning evidence.

Devanadera said the impeachment proviso was one of the things she had studied in recommending executive clemency to Ms Arroyo.

She said the President's power to grant executive clemency was absolute: "That is a prerogative that is solely hers."

Devanadera said Estrada's acceptance of the pardon was tantamount to an admission of his being guilty of plunder, of which he had been convicted.

"I see it as a matter of semantics. In ordinary life, would you ask for pardon if you do not recognize your guilt?" she said.

She added that one of the requirements of Estrada's pardon was his signature on the document from Malacañang acknowledging receipt and concurrence with the conditions stated there.

Devanadera disclosed that Ms Arroyo had agonized over the decision to pardon her predecessor: "It was very difficult for her. She did not take this lightly. It was made difficult even for us, the members of her official family, because we know that there will be feelings that will be hurt, there will be emotion and passion for some, and there will be some legalese that will be ... pursued." ***(See related story on Page A1.)***

Devanadera raised the case of the heirs of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, and the numerous suits still pending against them.

"And yet, digressing from the legal [matter], the Filipino people have taken them back. The children are now in public office. Imelda (the former first lady) is now in her advocacy to buy new shoes ... But you know, the cases are there," she said.

Gloria reaps whirlwind of protests

From page A1

Richard Gordon said the President "wasted a chance to leave a legacy of justice."

"I am revolted by the whole scenario," Gordon said. "I am not questioning her right to pardon but I am questioning her responsibility. She did not use her authority properly. [You] use your power to benefit the people. You do not use your power to make yourself survive."

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan also cited survival as Ms Arroyo's motive in pardoning Estrada.

He said Ms Arroyo's act was "meant to appease the Erap camp, score political points and ensure her own political survival."

"This is a plain and simple maneuver by the Arroyo administration to remain afloat: It does not serve the cause of justice. It is highly questionable and inappropriate for the Arroyo administration to go into a mad rush to grant the pardon just as her government faces all these serious charges of corruption and bribery," Pangilinan said.

Veiled warnings

Other reactions were veiled warnings that Ms Arroyo could face Estrada's fate.

"Let him (Estrada) have his pardon. All I can say is, 'Goodbye Gloria,'" said Eugenia Apostol, a recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism and founding chair of the INQUIRER.

Carol Araullo, chair of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and of PlunderWatch, which filed the plunder case against Estrada, described the pardon as "part of a cover-up most foul" with the immediate goal of diverting public attention from the scandals hounding the Arroyo administration.

"The more sinister objective is to draw Estrada and his followers away from the Oust GMA Movement, entice [him] to instead utilize the electoral arena to rebuild his political and economic clout, and meanwhile allow the Arroyo regime to weather its latest crisis," Araullo said in a statement.

She said Ms Arroyo would "not get away with this latest abuse of power because the people, including Erap's followers, are fed up with the poverty and misery wrought by her antipeople policies."

In a phone interview, Chavit Singson said the pardon was a mockery of the justice system that would set "a very bad precedent."

"We fought hard for [Estrada's] ouster and we offered our lives to that struggle. Now, why are we ready to forgive him when he has yet to suffer for his sins?" the former governor of Ilocos Sur said in Filipino.

He declined to comment when asked if he would withdraw support for Ms Arroyo. But his words were ominous: "Let us wait and see."

Senator Gordon said Ms Arroyo's move was a desperate attempt to win her fight with Speaker Jose de Venecia: "She must be allies with Erap now. Joe de Venecia will have to find a new ally.

"She chose to survive rather than be right, rather than be just. It's not even a question of mercy. It's a question of survival for her. It's transactional leadership at its purest form.

"We have become a laughingstock of the world. People are hungry for justice; they were robbed. This weakens the moral fabric of our country.

"Until we show our people that there are no special exemptions, there will be no justice in the country ... Is this just a game? Then let us free all the rich and powerful people in jail."

Sen. Joker Arroyo decried the President's "lightning and tasteless haste" in pardoning Estrada.

"Why did we go through six years of trial if the President was predisposed anyway to pardon Mr. Estrada the moment the decision was rendered? It rendered the trial so inutile. Remember, Erap was convicted of a political offense; he was not convicted of a common crime," Arroyo said in a statement.

He said that while the President's power to pardon was beyond question, she "must answer to her conscience and the reaction of the people to her decision to pardon [Estrada] too soon."

Ultimate betrayal

For Akbayan, a party-list group that was among those that initiated the impeachment case against Estrada, the pardon reflected, not national unity, but "honor among thieves."

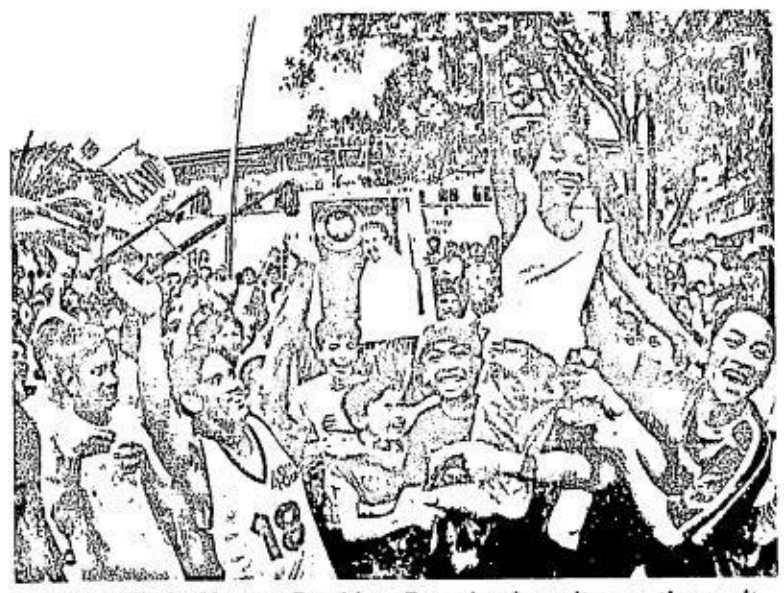
"The President treats justice like a mere transaction among thieves. Who else but the most incorrigible of thieves would not hesitate to do a shameless act like this? This mockery of justice is unpardonable," Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros said in a press conference.

Hontiveros said Estrada's plunder conviction and formerly expected imprisonment were supposed to prove that high officials could be held accountable for their acts.

Freeing him is "the ultimate betrayal of People Power," she said.

Etta Rosales, a former lawmaker and Akbayan's chair emeritus, said corruption was prevailing "because we have high officials who abuse their authority to coddle corrupt officials."

"The capacity to grant executive clemency to an official convicted of corruption could only come from a President who's all too willing to commit the same crime and expect the same privilege," Rosales said.



SUPPORTERS of former President Estrada whoop it up as they wait for his return to San Juan Friday. ERIK ARAZAS

Added Hontiveros: "This act normalizes corruption, sending a wrong message to the youth and other public officials. Who else is she willing to forgive? The Marcoses?

"In one swift act, Mrs. Arroyo demolished the integrity and credibility of our anticorruption institutions."

Black every Friday

The Black and White Movement called on Filipinos to wear black every Friday in "mourning the death of justice in our country."

"Let us paint this nation's heart black, for that is its color at its core," the civil society group said in a statement.

"Today (Friday) will be marked as a miserable day in our nation's history," it said, adding that the pardon was "a reflection of the culture of transactional politics that has characterized GMA's regime, which has brought our country to a state of moral bankruptcy."

Recalling the time and public funds spent in Estrada's four-year plunder trial, the citizens' group Maypagasa said: "It's a grand zarzuela, after all.

"Is this the concept of justice that this government knows? We will not be surprised if corruption will continue to flourish under the Arroyo administration. They just have to apply for pardon and presto, they can even enjoy their loot."

Maypagasa also said it would hold Ms Arroyo "accountable for this travesty of our justice system."

"This government has lost all moral ascendancy to talk about curbing corruption," it said.

Poet Axel Pinpin, one of the "Tagaytay 5" young men imprisoned for more than a year without charges, said the pardon "only showed what kind of government and justice system we have."

"It's simply unacceptable and deplorable. While convicts like Estrada go scot-free, innocent prisoners, especially political detainees like us, rot in jails," Pinpin said.

No difference

According to House Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora, the pardon makes no difference in the opposition's plans against Ms Arroyo.

Zamora, a close ally of Estrada who once served as his executive secretary, said Ms Arroyo would still face impeachment if evidence of her culpability and the opportunity to pass a complaint in a House dominated by her allies presented themselves.

"We are not affected by [Estrada's] pardon.... We will continue to hold the President accountable according to standards of public accountability," Zamora told the INQUIRER.

"[The pardon] does not make one wisp of difference," he said.

Asked if the opposition in the House would actively participate in impeachment proceedings if the evidence merited a serious complaint and if, by some way, a stronger case was allowed despite the one-year ban on new impeachment information, Zamora replied in the affirmative.

He said there was a need to look into the alleged bribery of lawmakers and local government officials in Malacañang on Oct. 11, but he expressed doubt that an inquiry into the cash handouts would prosper in the House.

House Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez of Parañaque said the opposition in the chamber was never a party in the negotiations for Estrada's pardon.

He said the opposition would naturally go on with its business of looking into excesses in the government.

"The minority did not join the appeal for and was not a party to the request for pardon for former President Erap," Golez said.

Asked if the opposition would continue to check the administration, Golez said: "It goes without saying. Fiscalizing is one of the principal responsibilities of the minority." ***Reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Fe Zamora, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Jerome Aning and Norman Bordadora in Manila; Leoncio Balbin Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon; AP***

Bishops ask GMA: What about other prisoners who also deserve pardon?

From page A1

The CBCP said the pardon might have bigger implications in the long run. But it expressed hope that Ms Arroyo's action would bear the desired fruit of unity and reconciliation for now.

Nevertheless, the CBCP directed two questions at Malacañang: What about restorative justice in Estrada's case? And what about the other prisoners who are also deserving of pardon?

"The pardoning President has spoken; the case ends there. But where is restorative justice?" the CBCP said.

It said Estrada could not be more privileged than the many other convicts who had committed lesser crimes but were languishing in jail for lack of political influence.

"Will they be given the same privilege or consideration?" the CBCP said. "No wonder the statue of justice has covered eyes—so there will be no favoritism."

Political expediency

In separate interviews, other bishops critical of the Arroyo administration described the pardon as nothing more than a political move.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz said Ms Arroyo's action was more of an attempt to head off unwanted attention resulting from the controversies and scandals besetting her administration.

"The matter has become a basically political issue for political expediency, in an attempt of the Malacañang occupant to hold on to political power," Cruz said.

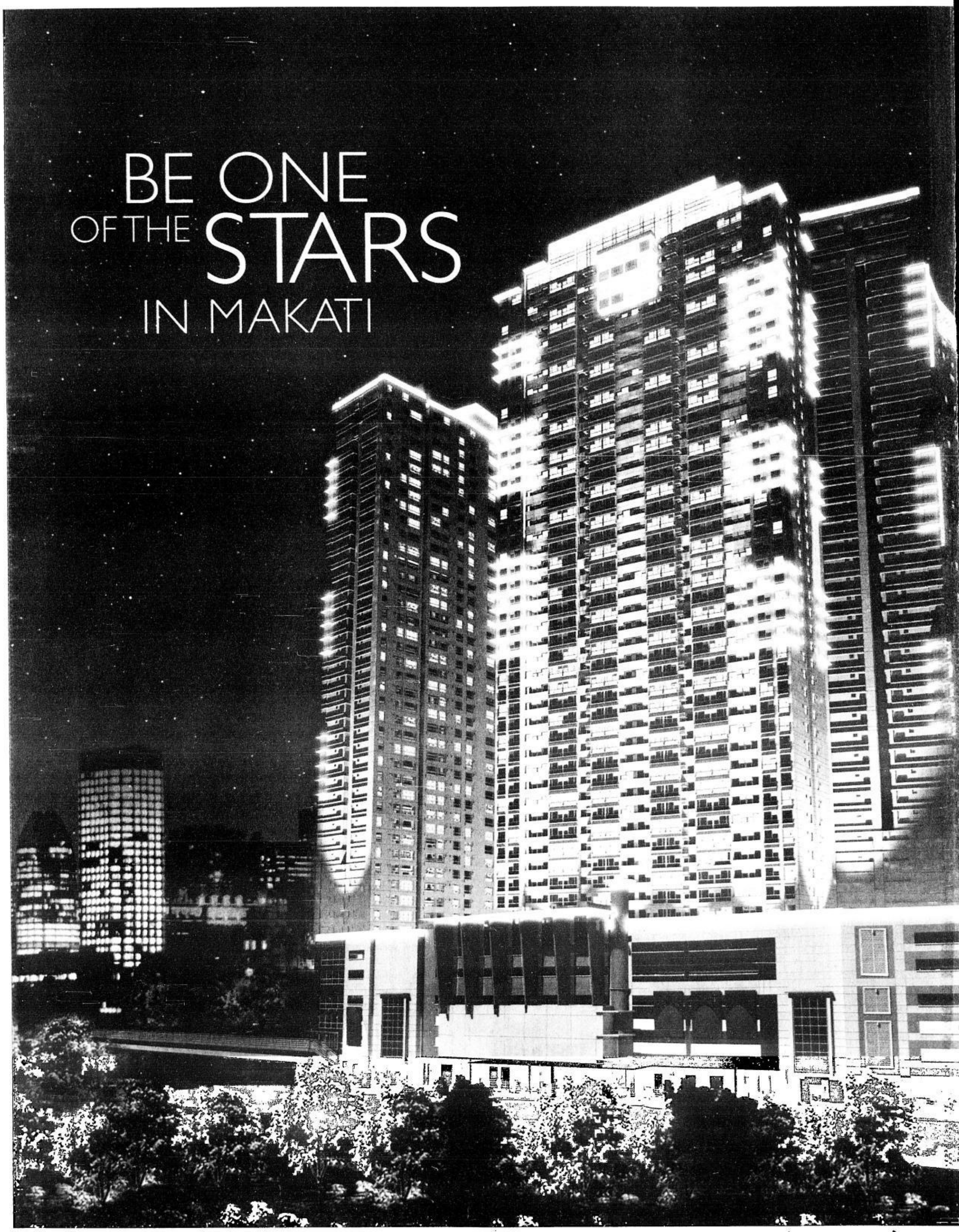
He said that in pardoning the ousted President, Malacañang had discarded all moral, legal and social considerations in the name of political accommodation.

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, one of three bishops who had launched a movement calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation, said that with the Palace's supposed penchant for quid pro quo, it was unlikely that the pardon was extended with nothing in exchange.

"What could have been the counterpart of the Estrada camp, or Estrada himself?" Iñiguez said. ***Beverly T. Natividad***

FORMER President Joseph Estrada signs documents in accepting a presidential pardon, at his Tanay rest house on Friday. He became a free man for the first time in six and a half years after his successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, set aside his life sentence. AP

ESTRADA feeds the fish Friday morning in his Tanay rest house, where he has been under house arrest for six and a half years. REUTERS



Erap wants to go to Brunei, Europe for vacation, says Puno

By Alcuin Papa

FINALLY A FREE MAN AFTER MORE than six years in detention, former President Joseph Estrada wants to go abroad on a vacation, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said yesterday.

Puno told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that he asked Estrada what his plans were now that he was a free man.

"We talked about personal things. He said he wants to fix his passport. It looks like he is thinking of going on a vacation," Puno said.

He said Estrada planned first to visit a friend, Sultan Bolkiah of Brunei, then maybe fly on later to Europe for some rest and recreation.

"But definitely his first destination is to the hospital to visit his mother," Puno said.

Asked why it took him hours to deliver Estrada's pardon papers, Puno said "there were a lot of individual steps that needed to be taken."

He said that the pardon order had to go through the office of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Erap kept waiting

"It needed to be hologramed. We needed two sets of documents ... And Tanay is quite far and there were problems with the weather. The pilot did not want to leave until the weather cleared. I thought it was a simple thing of bringing him the documents."

"*O akala ko di ka na dadating* (I thought you would never come)," Puno quoted Estrada as telling him when he finally arrived in Tanay met for the signing of the documents.

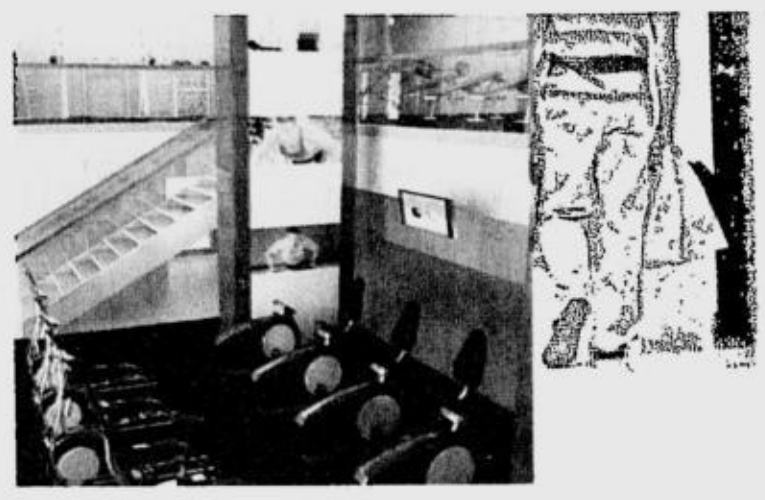
Puno said he apologized to Estrada for the delay, explaining to him that many details had to be thrashed out.

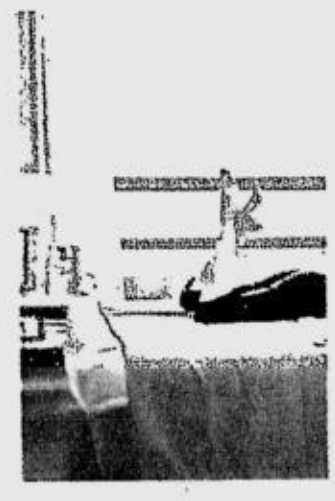
Teary-eyed in the end

Puno, who also served as Estrada's interior secretary, admitted he became emotional after Estrada signed the pardon papers.

"When Mr. Estrada left Malacañang, I was with him. When he was arrested at Polk Street, I was also with him. Now that I have been given the opportunity to give him his freedom, I became a little emotional and I was touched," Puno said.

"I felt it had all come full circle."





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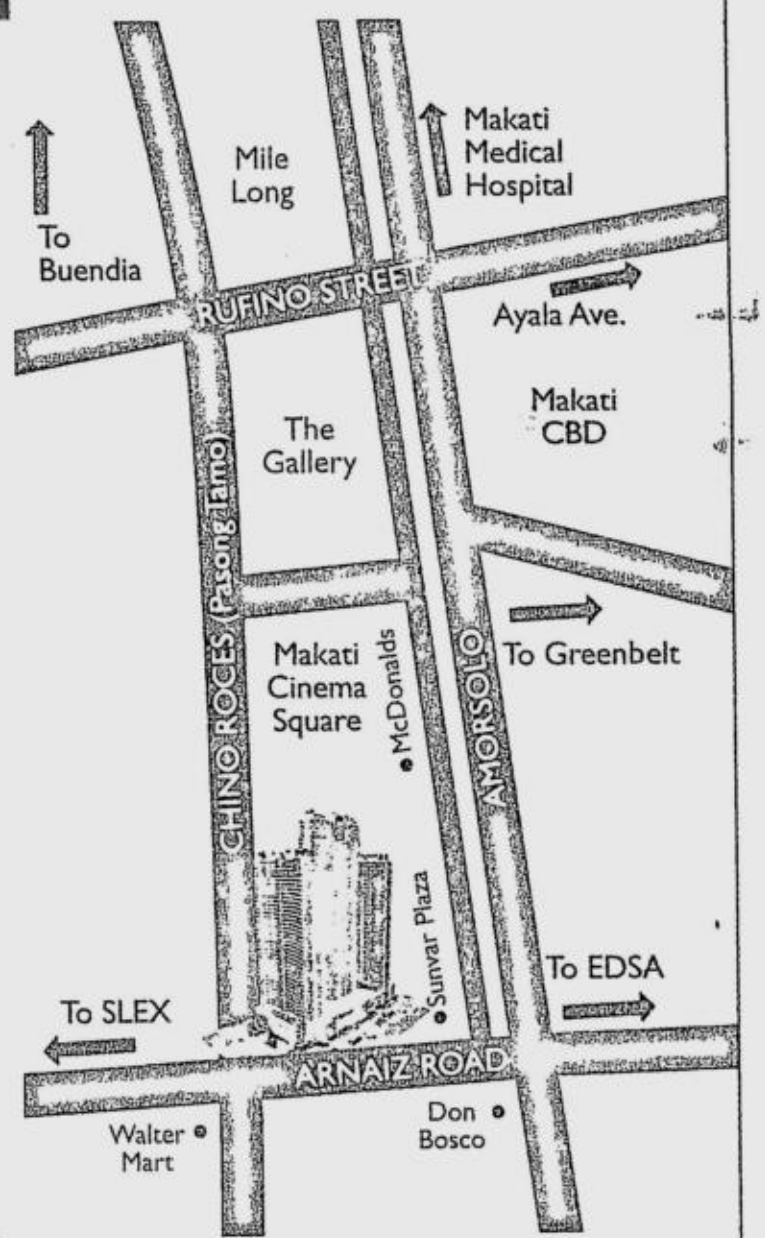

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Shameful capitulation

EDITORIAL

IN THEIR RUSH TO PARDON JOSEPH ESTRADA, President Macapagal-Arroyo and her advisers were hard put to come up with good reasons for setting the convicted plunderer free. The presidential order granting executive clemency to Estrada gave three: First, it is the administration's policy to release inmates who have reached the age of 70. Second, Estrada has been detained for more than six years. And third, Estrada has "publicly committed to no longer seek any elective position or office."

There is, in fact, an administration policy to free elderly prison inmates and it is contained in Memorandum Circular No. 155 issued in November 2004. The circular directs prison officials to send to the Office of the President, for review, the records of any inmate who turns 70 so that "deserving elderly inmates" can be extended executive clemency. It is clear the extension of executive clemency is not automatic, but subject to review to determine the merits of each case. Which is sensible, since neither science nor experience guarantees that at age 70, a person loses his capacity for mischief. A repentant young man of 20, who has reformed, is less of a threat to society than a defiant old man of 70, who refuses to mend his ways.

Estrada has never acknowledged his guilt, much less expressed remorse or repentance, for illegally stashing away hundreds of millions of pesos in kickbacks and protection money from *jueteng* operators. Given another opportunity, he will probably not think twice before enriching himself illegally again. If for this reason alone, it would be difficult to find a convict, whether of age 20 or 70, less deserving of pardon than Estrada.

The second reason given for the pardon is that Estrada has already served more than six years in detention—six years and six months to be exact, as Estrada himself has pointed out. But where was he detained? First in an air-conditioned suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, and then at his own well-appointed rest house in Tanay, Rizal—both hardly anyone's idea of a prison. While under detention, he was allowed to go out for various reasons, like visits to his ailing mother or medical check-ups, including an operation done in Hong Kong. Is Estrada's six-year detention, under such comfortable conditions, punishment enough for the crime of plunder committed by the highest official of the land?

The law on plunder was passed to help ensure that there would be no repetition of the large-scale thievery during the Marcos regime. Estrada tried mightily to match the rapacity of Ferdinand Marcos. Until a few years ago, his crime would have sent him to the death chamber, but since the death penalty had been abolished, the Sandiganbayan sentenced him to life imprisonment. Only one month later, Ms Arroyo set that judgment aside.

What does this say to public officials? That it is now open season for graft and corruption. Or that at the very highest levels of officialdom, one can expect leniency for the most heinous crimes.

Ms Arroyo's final reason for the grant of clemency only shows how quickly she had run out of rationalizations for her grave abuse of this presidential prerogative. Estrada's promise not to seek public office does not diminish the gravity of his crime against the Filipino people or prove that he is a changed man. It is only reassuring to a regime that is insecure about its legitimacy and stability.

That pardon is not about Estrada or any humane impulses of the President and her administration. It is not about crime and punishment. It is not about the rule of law and the dispensation of justice. It is not about setting examples and teaching lessons to public officials and the public. It is solely intended to help prop up a regime that is being pummeled by scandal after scandal, involving bribery and plunder, again.

All the hurry to pardon Estrada is at least partly explained by the fact that on the same day Jose de Venecia III directly implicated Ms Arroyo in the ZTE scandal. And it did take away the thunder from the exposé. But for how long will that smoke bomb hang over the case of the overpriced broadband project and the many scandals it has spawned?

This shameful capitulation to a convicted plunderer, this travesty of justice adds one more reason for the growing public disaffection and disgust with the Arroyo administration.

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The wildfires of California

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

SAN DIEGO. FROM THE AIR, THEY APPEAR as patches of bright red orange in the dark gray mist of the Southern California skyline. They remind me of the *kaingin* (slash-and-burn) clearings in the Philippine countryside. I count about five of them as the plane I boarded in Lima, Peru approaches the Los Angeles airport. They don't look menacing from afar, but one cannot miss their ominous closeness to the city lights. They are the wildfires of California.

Not entirely unexpected when dry strong winds from the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains sweep down the Pacific coast, California's wildfires are particularly severe this year. Authorities have counted 16 fires in LA and San Diego, stretching from Santa Barbara County north of LA to the Mexican border in San Diego. Ten thousand firefighters have been deployed to contain the fires that keep on re-igniting because of the shifting winds that blow in all directions.

Those in LA have been contained, but four huge fires continue to rage in some of the most populous neighborhoods of San Diego county, where about 300,000 Filipinos live. Six people have died and about 1,350 homes have been destroyed. Half a million people have been advised to evacuate through a reverse 911 call system, and a state of emergency has been declared in the whole county. Damage to property has been estimated at $1 billion so far.

The older sections of San Diego City itself, where luckily my two sisters and their families reside, are unaffected. But the whole city is in a disaster mode. Classes and offices are suspended for the rest of the week, and many stores have closed. TV stations have switched to live reporting, giving out information on the level of containment of the fires, the kinds of government assistance available to affected residents, and the various forms of response of concerned individuals and voluntary associations.

This is America at its best—the government is on its toes and civic-mindedness is fully activated. The overall government response has been described by the media as an example of "how to do things right." The sub-text of this phrase refers to the lingering memory of the incredible incompetence that marked the handling of the 2005 devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

By an interesting coincidence, the so-called Cedar Fire of 2003, which is on record the most destructive of the fires to hit California, occurred exactly four years ago. The point that this seems to underscore is that this year's fires are not going to be the last, and that future wildfires could be bigger despite the extensive fire-prevention campaigns. Some experts suggest that, ironically, the very success of such campaigns could lead to the kind of fuel build-up in these dry mountains that produce wildfires of even greater catastrophic proportions.

But here perhaps lies precisely the problem. Each time I come to California, I cannot help but marvel at the fabulous location of new housing projects being offered to the state's 30 million residents. I note with fascination the new neighborhoods that have colonized habitat previously thought unsuited for human settlement. Perched on barren hills, million-dollar homes command stunning views of the surrounding landscape. They seem inaccessible, but in fact they are connected to highway arteries by partly paved back roads. No wonder California has the highest concentration of powerful SUVs in the world, the perfect mode of transport for terrain like this.

The relative isolation creates the privacy that is highly prized in a mass society like the United States. But it comes at the cost of occupying spaces in a unique ecosystem whose vicissitudes include forest or brush fires when subjected to human contact. The record shows that humans cause nine out of 10 wildfires. Only 10 percent are due to natural causes like lightning.

No one knows exactly how the first of the 16 fires across the state started. Investigators are looking at an arson angle, while others suspect that the fire might have been set off by sparks from a power line that had been knocked down by strong winds. In the hills of Southern California, the surface growth can become so dry that flying embers from a small fire elsewhere could spark an uncontrollable wildfire in no time at all. Combined with the effects of a long drought, high temperatures, and strong warm winds, the dry brush becomes a tinderbox.

Like the seasonal typhoons that sweep through our archipelago every year, wildfires are thought to have a function in the dynamics of ecosystems. They are not singularly harmful. The seeds of the giant Sequoia trees, for instance, are known to remain dormant until their seed coating is broken by fire. Fire may also have the long-term effect of improving habitat for wildlife, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It can enhance the porosity of surface soil, thus improving the capacity of the land to absorb moisture. All of this gives no comfort, of course, to those who have watched helplessly while flames crept into their homes like a horde of pests.

From a larger perspective, what we have here is no less than a fascinating, if tragic, reminder of the complex problems arising from the encounter between human beings and their natural environment. It is humbling to see that not even the most technologically advanced country in the world has figured out the full ramifications of this encounter.

* * *

Comments to: public.lives@gmail.com

Remember Eduardo T. Quintero

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

EDUARDO QUINTERO, THE "YOUNGEST, most brilliant brother" among seven siblings, was public servant for 44 years—from law clerk at the Bureau of Lands in 1925 to ambassador to Korea, the United Nations, Holland; to delegate to the Laurel-Langley Talks and to the International Court of Justice in the Hague, to name a few of the public offices he held. On being the Leyte delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention, he wrote: "I considered my membership a very important chapter in my life. I was already 70 years old and I felt that my position as delegate would be the last position I was going to hold. It would be my 'last hurrah' . . . a fitting climax to my government career . . . ."

Then came the money envelopes. "I received P11,150 inside 18 envelopes on 18 different occasions." Staunch friends advised that the envelopes be kept in a safety deposit box in the Bank until the time was ripe to "drop the bombshell."

On May 19, 1972, he dropped the bombshell—the "Quintero Exposé." "I have decided to turn over the money now—before the Convention votes on the issue of the parliamentary system vs. the presidential system. . . ."

This was the most difficult decision he had ever made. "Bothered by his conscience," he chose to do "the correct thing." "His hands were trembling so much that some of the bills contained in the envelope he was holding fell out, landing near his feet."

Falling sick as persecution swiftly followed and driven to self-exile in the United States, he died at 84 of heart attack on Dec. 17, 1984, "vilified, mocked and belittled for his efforts ... his name unvindicated." Four years after his death on June 24, 1988, he was finally vindicated by the Supreme Court. His name is now enshrined in the Bantayog Ng Mga Bayani.

Flash forward. On TV and on Page 1 of the INQUIRER's Oct. 16 issue is Fr. Ed Panlilio showing P500,000 given to him in Malacañang on Oct. 11, 2007. His stand is clear. He considered the money to have come from public funds, as it was given by Malacañang and it will be used for public purposes. He would return the money "if this was given as a bribe." He wrote a letter to Malacañang "to acknowledge the receipt of the money and to request the name of the payer."

"I have a conscience and it is the voice of God. I opted to listen to my conscience."

It's déjà vu of two disturbingly honest men who carried us to the very core of corruption. But the déjà vu must stop right here.

Already, parallels have been drawn between President Ferdinand Marcos and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Already, like Quintero's co-delegates who slinked into their corners denying the envelopes, we are witnessing denials by "givers" and "givens." "I did not receive any money—I wasn't there—I don't know." What is it? Send-off gift, Christmas gift, donation, *pabaon*, incentive bonus, normal practice (which doesn't make it right)? Where did it come from? That is the question to end all questions. Now we know the fancy labels given to the staggering funds at the disposal of the President!

Bizarre scenario: only Father Ed produced the goods; only he must have received P500,000. It's scapegoat season. [Gov. Joselito Mendoza has corroborated Father Ed's "revelation"; on Oct. 23, the League of Provinces of the Philippines claimed that the money came from the organization.]

Now more than ever, Father Ed needs all the support he can get. The Church most of all, should close ranks if only to make up for doing a Pilate on him. No one missed the cold shoulder he got when he waded into political action, "suspended from the priesthood" by a confounding ruling. What a boost to now see Bishop Paciano Aniceto, his superior, standing up for him, and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines supporting him and calling on other public officials to follow his example.

What a welcome headline: "CBCP tells execs: Admit Palace gift" (INQUIRER, 10/17/07), a broadside on the queen the bishops saved in July 2006 (when they rejected impeachment) and in December 2006 (with their promise of an Edsa-like prayer rally for a "character" rather than a Charter change; the rally fizzled out as a parochial pious exercise).

The hierarchical Church may have to contend with allusions to envelopes given some prelates in that July conference after which not a peep of protest was raised by them. They may have to forego such "gifts" and once and for all settle their morality. Attempts to defile may continue. It is possible to think that that P500,000 was meant to ensnare Father Ed. I have no doubt that the Church, with less fear and more firmness, can handle all that.

Another factor works for Father Ed. Quintero's historical moment was the very threshold of martial law, such that the orchestration to "destroy" him was total, making Quintero both martyr and hero.

Our endangered political climate is still free and the press and TV are all over the place. Having "learned to be angry," civil society is more aware and awakened. Father Ed counts on it: "once truth is set forth, the adherence to this truth will snowball and a critical mass of people will support it." What, indeed, if issue and crusader are "thrust into the forefront of national life" and played out on a national level?

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marda_ph@yahoo.com ; fax 8284454

The deceptive Neda press release

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

HERE IS HOW BAD ECONOMIC NEWS FROM one agency was disguised as good economic news by another agency two days later.

I was truly amazed to see the deceptive title "FIES results show **improving** incomes" on the Oct. 11, 2007 press release of the National Economic and Development Authority, which dealt with the very same 2003 and 2006 Family Income and Expenditures Surveys, reported by the National Statistics Office on Oct. 9, on which I based my last column "GNP grew, but incomes **fell**."

The deception in the title is repeated in the first sentence of the said Neda release (www.neda.gov.ph/ads/press_release/pr.asp?ID=904): "The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) said the 2006 Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES) show [sic] that the average income of families has been **improving** alongside economic growth."

This lead sentence deserves a failing grade in elementary economics, because there is absolutely no way that a survey finding of a drop in real income per family between 2003 and 2006, **i.e., after correction for inflation**, can be considered an **improvement**. A mere increase in peso units is not an improvement when, as computed by NSO itself, the peso amount in the end year buys less than it did in the beginning year. It is an out-and-out worsening, not an improvement.

After much blah-blah, this tricky Neda press release cites numbers for the first time in its fifth paragraph: "The National Statistics Office (NSO) reported that from 2003-2006, average **nominal** incomes of families in the bottom 30 percent grew faster at 17.5 percent compared to families in the upper 70 percent which grew by 15.9 percent." Here the tell-tale word is "nominal," which means **before correction for inflation** (which happened to be 19.6 percent between the two years).

Ah, but doesn't the seventh paragraph—"Total family income rose faster by 22.7 percent from the 2003 figure to reach PhP2.99 trillion in 2006. Adjusting for inflation, **total income of families in real terms** grew by 2.6 percent to PhP2.5 trillion compared to the Php2.4 trillion registered in the last survey period."—account for inflation?

Well, the seventh paragraph is creative economic journalism. On the one hand it adjusts for inflation, but on the other hand it switches reference units. Note carefully that it refers specifically to **income of all families** and not to **average income per family**. Sure, the income of all families grew by 2.6 percent over 2003-2006; but the number of families grew faster than that (by 5.6 percent) over the three years, and therefore the total income divided by the number of families fell!

Ultimately, the ninth paragraph of the ten-paragraph Neda release gives away the deception completely:

"Given the 19.6 percent increase in the price of family expenditure items between 2003-2006 coupled with the 5.6 percent increase in the number of families during the same period, **real average income of families declined by 2.7 percent to PhP144,000 per family from PhP148,000 per family in 2003.** In the same manner, average family expenditures in real terms dropped by 0.8 percent. As a result, real average family savings was slashed by 12.5 percent to just PhP21,000 from PhP24,000 in 2003."

The ninth paragraph's statistics of P144,000 and P148,000 are precisely what I cited in my October 20th column.

The basic findings of the Family Income and Expenditure Surveys bear repeating: **real income per family, real expenditures per family, and real savings per family all fell between 2003 and 2006.**

If average incomes fell, then poverty must have grown. On March 2, 2007, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), which does the official poverty lines, released preliminary estimates for 2006 and 2007, for every province (www.nscb.gov.ph/poverty/2006-2007/pov_th_07.asp).

In terms of the national average, on a per year per person basis, the NSCB poverty thresholds are P14,405 for 2006 and P14,866 for 2007. These are in so-called "current prices," meaning uncorrected for inflation from any given base year. To convert these into current pesos per family per year, we multiply by the average family size of 5.0 (2005 NSO Census of Population and Households) and arrive at P72,025 for 2006 and P74,330 for 2007.

According to the 2006 FIES, the average income, in current prices, of the lowest-income 10 percent (called the first decile) of families was P32,000 per year. By decile, average family incomes in 2006 in current pesos were as follows: 1. 32,000, 2. 51,000, 3. 65,000, 4. 81,000, 5. 100,000, 6. 123,000, 7. 156,000, 8. 204,000, 9. 290,000, and 10. 617,000.

For any decile from 2 to 9, the lower income boundary is more or less halfway from its own average income to the average income of the decile below, and the upper income boundary is more or less halfway to the average income of the decile above. For example, the third decile, whose average is P65,000, more or less extends from P58,000 to P73,000. For a 2006 threshold of P72,000, practically all families in the first three deciles would be classified as poor.

Since NSCB's official poverty incidence in 2003 was only 25 percent, it will be interesting to see if it can now come out with a poverty estimate of close to 30 percent for 2006. Does NSCB have the guts to ever report that poverty got worse? Or will it engage in creative journalism, like Neda?

* * *

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The 11th of October

YOUNG BLOOD

Michael Angelo Lasam

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I AM GETTING OLD AND I AM AFRAID THAT THE TIME IS fast approaching when making blogs will seem pathetic. So I have decided to write my very first blog. And since I have just celebrated my 22nd birthday this month, I thought it would be fitting to write about the things that happened on past Oct. 11's.

I have had some colorful birthdays, complete with bloopers and dramas. Just last year, I rammed our brand new Ford Everest into the wall of a parking lot. But since it was my birthday, what would have been a three-hour sermon by my parents was cut to only an hour.

All but one of my birthdays have been spent with my family, even during the years I was in college when my family had to drive 10 hours to be with me. The day would usually start with my mom sitting on my bed, waiting for me to wake up. She would have to wait for at least an hour, because I got so tired the night before thinking about what I would ask her for my birthday. The moment I woke up, she would start the "genesis story," recalling how they had to take the earliest flight to Manila to get to a good hospital; how it felt like she was in hell; and how the doctor was afraid that I had three feet, and all that. She would relate how "Baby Mike" was just about the size of a Coke litro bottle when he came out into this world.

On such occasions, she always made me feel like a baby, and I would act like one even though I had grown into the ugliest, hairiest baby you would ever see, morning breath and all. (By the way, she does this to every single one of us siblings, and when it isn't me on the hot seat, I laugh my butt off every time I hear her story.)

It was during one of those birthday mornings that I got to know why I have a very odd-looking bellybutton. My mom has always been OC (obsessive-compulsive), so no one was allowed to touch, much less kiss, me as a baby. She cleaned my bellybutton so vigorously that the skin peeled off, making it bleed. The result is my weird bellybutton. But to tell you the truth, my strange-looking bellybutton always reminds me of how much she loves me.

As for papa, he keeps on saying that I was the only baby that he bathed and whose butt he powdered. Thanks to him, I grew up having a big asset.

The story-telling part has been the common denominator in all my birthdays. Now it's time to tell the memorable ones.

On my seventh birthday, I invited all my cousins and asked everyone to wear a superhero costume. I myself was Captain America. There were two Batmans, three Supermans, two Wonderwomans, one Spiderman (a girl) and the rest were superheroes in civilian clothes. Like other kids in costumes, we played our roles to the hilt. There was a lot of running, kicking, punching and more kicking, and then POW! Captain America ripped a hole in his pants. But amid all the fun and excitement, I never noticed the big hole in my pants where my shield could have gone through. Today, I have many reminders about that hole in old pictures showing my ripped pants and I am still bothered that nobody told me then! Yup! Nobody! They must have loved the sight of a superhero with ripped pants so much.

On my 10th birthday, I invited my grade school classmates to our house. But this time, there were no more costumes, just lots of food (I had learned my lesson well). As we were eating, my lolo approached me and, right in front of my classmates, handed me a grand total of P13—all in coins. Much as I appreciated lolo's generosity, I still felt embarrassed for him. As if to rub it in, one of my classmates asked how much I got, and to cover up for my lolo, I said I received a few coins with a P100 bill mixed with them. But I can't really blame my lolo, because to this day he thinks a bottle of Coke costs P2.

My only birthday that my family wasn't able to celebrate was the only birthday when I cried—not out of loneliness but for joy. It was my 17th birthday, and I expected it to be a lonely day after I learned that my family couldn't make it to the city. Little did I know that my cousins were preparing a surprise. One of them asked me to help her with her calculus, and so I went to her room. Once I left my room, my other cousins brought in tons of food, drinks and a birthday cake. After I've finished tutoring, I went back to my room ready to cry myself to sleep and as I turned on the lights, all my cousins were there with the whole shebang! For the first time in my life, I was genuinely surprised and felt some tears running down my cheek. It was only a couple of days later that I realized that I had tutored a cousin who wasn't enrolled in calculus. But I have never felt better about being deceived!

Sure, getting old is scary. It is almost certain you will end up being a person you never thought you would turn into, not doing things you usually do and simply being ignored by others. All that is left is self pity. It is a scary thought, but what will sustain us are the memories we stored along the way.

Michael Angelo Lasam, 22, is a BS Materials Engineering graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Public libraries and Kaakbay

COMMENTARY

Neni Sta. Romana Cruz

ON A RECENT VISIT TO THE LAND OF MILK and honey, I was initially dazzled by the multitude of consumer choices to be made. But I was instantly offended and even nauseated by it all. ("This is the greatest country in the world. How can you not remember ... ?" was the immigration officer's arrogant query when my daughter Tanya could not recall how many trips she had made to the United States.)

This time around, I resolved not to take the well-traveled tourist path. Instead, I went on a special pilgrimage to bookstores and libraries.

Having only one afternoon to spare in Washington, D.C., I had no difficulty deciding to visit the Library of Congress, no longer anxious for an instant library card this time. My hosts Yvette P. Jarencio and Daisy B. Lizaso, with our guide Helen, took us on a fascinating tour.

The building's Romanesque architecture and the sculptures and murals depicting the different disciplines of study all highlight America's traditional respect for books and writers. Thomas Jefferson's timeless words, "I cannot live without books," reverberated in the building.

Helen was indefatigable despite a physical disability and her dependence on a trained service dog that wore a collar that announced, "I'm working, please do not try to pet me."

The New York Public Library (NYPL) with its familiar lion sculptures on its Fifth Avenue entrance is a landmark Beaux Arts building. Standing on what used to be the city's reservoir, it is impressive in the number of researchers and visitors that Thursday afternoon. The major reading rooms are networked and in the course of a brief research, I was able to e-mail copies of particular text pages I needed—a preferred and welcome alternative to photocopying or saving on a flash disk, something frowned upon.

There is a fascinating display of celebrity library users: poet Langston Hughes and Frank McCourt, author of "Angela's Ashes," "'Tis" and "Teacher Man."

Listed were the many queries that the library staff have had to field. That was especially encouraging for the students and the merely curious, for the questions ran from NY statistics to how to write a letter of application. Happily, Director Prudenciana Cruz and her National Library staff have also been accommodating a whole range of my trivia questions over the years.

And when one wearied of poring over library documents, there was the adjacent wi-fi Bryant Park to take refuge in. Fall is the most pleasant of seasons for a cup of coffee and a book beneath the trees. No other company needed.

A visit to one of the NYPL's 86 branches was imperative because it had the Children's Collection. The Donnell Library Center is right beside the Museum of Modern Art and had a very busy Teen Central section. Adolescents were doing Internet research or had their noses deep in Harry Potter volumes. The children's section was quiet because it was a school day but had a precious exhibit of the original stuffed animals—now wearing thin, obvious signs of endearment—that inspired AA Milne to create Winnie the Pooh. Both these sections have exhaustive print and nonprint circulating collections that made me sigh.

The Boston Public Library cannot be missed because of its central location. It is an imposing building that has its façade engraved with the names of the greatest thinkers of all time. Our trolley guide announced, "Listed on the walls are the names of all those with overdue books!"

Did I come away feeling envious? Yes and only because of the availability and accessibility of books for all. No matter where one went, from distant Manhattan or downtown San Francisco, there were public libraries and bookstores to be found. And always, a regular weekly calendar of author talks, autographing or storytelling, or arts and crafts sessions—any and all activities to promote the books and the printed word.

The business of promoting literacy cannot be left only to the classroom teachers. Libraries need to support the difficult job of teaching. And on especially tiring teaching days, teachers need to be reminded by administrators and librarians about the wonderful and timeless legacy of books.

For those who feel computers and technology are the ultimate answer to all that is wanting in the educational system today, do be reminded that books and ideas endure forever.

All is not bleak, for Manila has its own busy calendar of literacy activities. (Yes, it is books that we lack!) For instance, today is the final day of "Programang Kaakbay," a three-day training conference of over a hundred public school teachers—all certified reading advocates—representing elementary schools all over the country.

This is the third consecutive year that it has been spearheaded by Margarita Delgado and Lizzie Zobel of the Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation and Malu Erni of Petron Foundation. Ateneo is this year's host. The conference goal is simple: to make everyone a more dynamic, a more enthused reading teacher, "nurturing teachers to build a nation of readers."

Neni Sta. Romana Cruz is a writer and editor, a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People and a trustee of the Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation. E-mail comments to nenisrc@gmail.com

Puno and Razon, at the time of the blast

BETWEEN DEADLINES

OUT OF COVERAGE AREA. WHERE WERE INTERior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Philippine National Police Chief Avelino Razon at the time of the Glorietta 2 blast? At the Garden Orchid Hotel in Zamboanga City, it so happened.

Their visit to the city was unannounced, Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, police chief for Western Mindanao, admitted to the INQUIRER. "*Biglaan nga ang pagdating nila* and there's nothing wrong *kasi parte ng kanilang* obligation *na mag-iikot* whenever there is free time so they can make their own assessment, but they arrived here on short notice."

Caringal said Secretary Puno and Director General Razon were in the city to check on preparations for the barangay elections. But Commission on Elections regional director Helen Aguila Flores said she did not meet with the two officials.

"I didn't even know they were here," Flores said.

At the time of the blast, journalists were waiting at the lobby of the hotel while Puno and Razon were still in their rooms. Also seen at the hotel lobby were aides of the two officials, carrying golf equipment.

A member of the hotel's staff later informed the waiting journalists that Puno and Razon had already left the hotel, to board a private plane to Manila. *J. Alipala*

* * *

STORIES FROM "GROUND ZERO." Even the investigation of the Glorietta 2 blast, grim as it is, has had its share of light moments—particularly regarding the interaction between local bomb investigators and their foreign counterparts.

The involvement of experts from the United States and Australia in the investigation has been a big help to local probers. But one ranking police investigator, sources said, got more help than he may have bargained for.

The investigator took it upon himself to do research on the Internet on gas explosions. The officer, no slouch when it comes to bomb investigations, downloaded a manual on investigations of gas explosions from the Web, and paid for the document online.

Armed with his new find, the investigator showed up the next day eager to show his colleagues the expensive manual.

When the investigator and his manual were espied by one of the American experts, a member of the US Navy SEALs, the American said, "Oh, I see you have my book."

It turns out that the Navy SEAL was the author of the downloaded manual.

Local arson investigators also braved the stench to enter the Glorietta 2 basement flooded with knee-high deep wastewater. Some of their foreign counterparts, however, might have lacked the necessary intestinal fortitude. One consultant didn't last a minute in the stinky basement, a source said, and hastily fled the mess. *A. Papa*

* * *

DODGING THE BULLET. Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes must have been one heck of a bullet dodger during his time in the military, judging by the way he managed to avoid answering the questions that reporters hurled at him about the Malacañang "paper bag" scandal last week.

While both TV and print reporters were unrelenting in firing questions, in quick succession, Reyes was quicker on the draw, managing to change the subject each time.

Instead of giving a straight answer about how the bribery controversy affected him and whether or not he would stay loyal to this administration, he coyly smiled and told reporters to focus on "more pressing" issues instead—his issue of the season being climate change.

"We've always been saddled, quarreling over issues that divide. It's time for us to find a cause that will unite us. Addressing climate change should be on top of our priorities," he said.

A few minutes of rephrasing and paraphrasing later, the persistent reporters ran out of ammo; they had no choice but to settle for Reyes' safe and totally unrelated remarks.

So much for getting a straight answer. *A. Ho*

* * *

SPECIAL GUESTS. It was an A-list crowd who showed up at the media launch of "Bridges," an initiative of the International Peace Foundation to host Nobel Prize winners in a series of lectures and workshops in Thailand and the Philippines, starting next month.

Co-chaired by SGV founder Washington Sycip and Ayala Corp. CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, the Philippine series has won the support of some of the country's most eminent leaders. As a result, the press conference at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City last Wednesday drew top businessmen, media owners and heads of the country's top educational institutions.

The guests who attracted the most attention, however, came from an altogether different sector: politics, of the Philippine kind. Former President Fidel Ramos and incumbent Speaker Jose de Venecia sat in the front row, together again a mere day after a supposed reconciliation meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang. *J. Nery*

* * *

BLAST FROM THE PAST. From the Feb. 11, 1987 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer:

Assistant Minister Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo clarified yesterday the issue raised by some disgruntled employees of the Board of Investments complaining of her "demand" to construct a separate toilet for her own use.

Ms Arroyo said that it was, in fact, Trade and Industry Minister Jose Concepcion Jr., who wanted a separate comfort room built near her office for the use of foreign investors wanting to invest in the country.

She said that with the present condition of the comfort room at the ground floor of the BOI, it [was] inhospitable to allow them to use it. We are wooing these investors to come in and they deserve better treatment, she explained.

Ms Arroyo is in charge of the one-stop-shop export processing center to facilitate the entry of foreign investors into the country.

THEY SAID

Circus act

"Yes, political circuses are entertaining but these should not dissipate our energies the way they consume those who stage them."

—President Macapagal-Arroyo, assailing critics for allegedly attempting to destabilize the government

Destabilizing truth

"The destabilization is of their own doing. The Armed Forces leadership has now become the permanent vehicle to suppress voices of truth."

—Statement from Marine and Army Scout Ranger officers detained on coup d'etat charges in Tunay, Rizal

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LPP should present receipts

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THE "admission" of Governors Joel Reyes and Ben Evardone of Palawan and Eastern Samar, respectively, that the much ballyhooed "cash gifts" given to Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio and Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza came from the League of Provinces of the Philippines and not from the Palace (INQUIRER, 10/24/ 07) merely created more questions than answers.

Why did it take them 12 long days to open their mouths? What, indeed, could have been more timely and less incredible than for the LPP to have already owned up to being the source of the mysterious money in the full-page advertisement titled "Stop the Political Noise, Focus on Economic Growth" that it caused to be published just one day before its controversial admission? If it was customary—meaning it had been happening in the past—for the LPP to provide so-called "Capability Building Project" (CBP) funds to newly elected local officials, why should Isabela Gov. Maria Gracia Padaca deny, in a recent television interview, receiving a similar amount on her first term?

And who else, apart from Panlilio and Mendoza, received this year? (For example, would our new governor, Vilma Santos, please clarify if she had also received a CBP fund?) If, as Reyes said, receipts for such cash gifts usually follow, can he please present receipts for the previous years' releases? And no, it was not a plain mistake, as he claimed, that the LPP Secretariat had committed in distributing the CBP cash gifts inside the Palace; it was unthinkable stupidity!

Alas, the litany of mind-boggling questions raised by the Reyes-Evardone admission is endless; I cannot help but recall the dialogue of one character in a Filipino action movie whose title I already forgot: *"Mag-sisinungaling ka lang, di ka pa maalam!"*

—RUDY L. CORONEL,
10 Venus St., Golden Country Homes, Alangilan, Batangas City

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Where AFP chain of command starts

THE CHAIN OF COMMAND IN the Armed Forces of the Philippines starts not from the Commander in Chief but from the sovereign people who elected her.

If the Commander in Chief who is also the President of the Republic of the Philippines, abuses her power to the prejudice of the people, it's but right for the people to replace her with one who can uphold and respect their rights in accordance with the rule of law and the Constitution.

—GEN. FORTUNATO U. ABAT, (Ret.),
fortunatouabat@yahoo.com

Maynilad blind to leaking pipe?

LAST SEPT. 25, I CALLED UP Maynilad (4362000) and reported to a certain Bernadette a leaking pipe on Arellano Street, Barangay 732 Zone 80 in Singalong, Malate, Manila. When she asked the exact location of the leak, I said it was a few meters away from the barangay hall. For reference, I gave her my contact number and address. My report, she said, was recorded as "Report No. 350849."

After a week, the leak was still there. Again, I called Maynilad and inquired about the status of Report No. 350849. The lady who answered me, a certain Beth, said the leak could not be located. She asked for a more specific location. I repeated that the leak was not more than 20 meters away from the barangay hall. I wanted to add that it could easily be seen from the barangay hall.

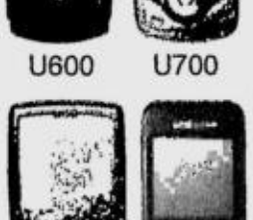
I made a third call on Oct. 11 and inquired about Report No. 350849, again. After a few minutes, the lady who answered me said: "*Wala naman daw hong* leak (I've been told there's no leak)!" I couldn't help blowing my top and I told her, almost shouting: "*Alam mo*, miss, *parang sinasabi mo na sinungaling ako; na nag-aksaya lang ako ng oras na tawagan kayo para i*-report *ang* leak *na wala naman* (You know, miss, it's as if you're telling me that I'm lying; that I just wasted my time calling you to report a leak that isn't there)." She gave the phone to her supervisor.

Slowly and in a controlled voice, I related to the latter my two previous calls. I told her that I am just a concerned citizen "*na nanghihinayang sa tubig na naaaksaya* (affected by a sense of loss at the sight of water going to waste)." I also said that this wasn't the first time that I reported a leaking pipe. The supervisor said they will act on it immediately.

Oct. 16 passed and the leak was still there. Hence, this letter.

—VIRGILIO C. SAGUN,
1187 Arellano St., Barangay 732, Zone 80, Singalong, Malate, Manila

U600 U700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Need to invest abroad

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO HONESTO GENERAL'S column, titled "SSS & GSIS investing abroad." (INQUIRER, 10/17/07) We would like to respectfully point out that the $1-billion Global Investment Program (GIP) the Government Service Insurance System intends to pursue with the assistance of global fund managers is intended to further equip the GSIS with the wherewithal to meet the future claims and benefits of its members. As a state-owned pension fund, the GSIS has a continuing obligation to see to it that its assets will not only perpetually grow, but will be sufficient to match its contingent and future liabilities to its members.

As presently constituted, the Philippine capital market is still too limited in terms of the number of investment instruments available, the magnitude of funds that the domestic market can absorb and the returns that can be obtained from local investments. Thus, there is a pressing need for the GSIS to seek opportunities elsewhere.

The global fund managers vying for the $1-billion mandate involve some of the world's finest and most respected investment companies. They are the recognized experts in their field. It is only fitting that investments of this magnitude will be handled by someone who knows the ins and outs of the business, especially in the international arena. However, the GSIS is not handing the reigns to them completely. The GSIS has set a requirement of an annual 8-percent floor on return on investments (net of fees) and a ceiling of 7 percent on the portfolio volatility for the global fund managers that will be awarded the mandate.

It also should not be construed that the decision to seek investment opportunities abroad is a sign that the GSIS has abandoned the local capital market. In fact, it continues to be an active player in the Philippine bourse involving mostly blue chip stocks. But the GSIS cannot restrict itself just to the local market. Any financial initiative that generates low returns, even if rooted domestically, will be a disservice to our members. The GSIS has too much liquidity and needs to take advantage of investment opportunities abroad.

The GSIS has an obligation to prolong its actuarial life and sustain the needs of its members for as long as it exists. The GIP is just another step toward meeting that goal.

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA,
vice president,
Public Affairs Office,
Government Service Insurance System,
Financial Center, Pasay City

Review law on MTRCB

EVEN AS WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT the Movie, Television Review and Classification Board has lifted the X-Rating on their 16 short movies titled "Rights" (INQUIRER, 9/29/07), political detainees, like me, who are victims of state terrorism remain anxious that the Arroyo regime continues to stifle the voice of the people—be it in street demonstrations, films, tri-media or even in Senate halls. Although we haven't seen "Rights" yet (and, most likely, will not be allowed to do so), we support the advocacy of the filmmakers to bring our true-to-life drama to a larger and wider audience.

We believe (based on independent reviews we have read) that "Rights" clearly depicts our ordeal as victims of torture and human rights abuses. The MTRCB's X-Rating (eventually changed to R-13) suppressed not only the film's message but also our voice, together with Pastor Berlin Guerrero's moan of grief, the Manalo Brothers' yell of pain, Jonas Burgos' muted tortured cries in darkness and all clamor for justice. The MTRCB's penchant for capriciously axing films and shows critical of government—e.g., Brocka's "Ora Pro Nobis," "Schindler's List" and, now, "Rights," comes off in stark contrast to its absolute silence on such downright propaganda materials such as "Knowing the Enemy" and the untitled film (also without credits), starring Bembol Rocco, that maliciously implies Kilusang Mayo Uno's connection to the communist movement.

If not for the timely vigilance of the filmmakers, the MTRCB's "curtailment" of "Rights" would have been another case of cultural obscurantism, a hallmark of the Dark Ages that is totally incompatible with the Digital Age. It is about time for our legislators to review the law that created the MTRCB. After all, the censorship board is toothless when it comes to scandals involving noon-time game shows.

—AXEL PINPIN,
Tagaytay 5 Base Police Detention Center,
Camp Vicente Lim, Calamba City

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19 hurt as plane overshoots runway

THE PHILIPPINE Airlines Airbus-320 flight from Manila that overshot the runway while landing at the Bancasi Airport, Butuan City. FRANKLIN CALIGUID/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Manila-Butuan flight smooth until landing

BUTUAN CITY—AT LEAST 19 PASSENGERS WERE injured when a Philippine Airlines Airbus A-320 overshot the runway of the Bancasi Airport here around 6:45 p.m. yesterday.

Supt. Elmer Doyo, director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Caraga, said among those injured was plane pilot Capt. Fernando Santos.

"A total of 19 people were injured including the pilot," he said.

The PAL flight 475, which left Manila about 5:10 a.m., was carrying 148 passengers and 6 crew members, aviation officials said.

The plane ended up near the housing area for soldiers when it continued to taxi at the end of the 1.2 kilometer runway.

Pilot error

Emmanuel Costello, airport manager, it was most likely that the pilot erred during landing and missed the runway.

He said that he received accounts from eyewitness about the plane landing on the wrong "touch down zone."

"The weather was good and there was nothing unusual. We're looking into the pilot error angle," Costello told the INQUIRER.

Prior to yesterday's incident, he said that pilots had no problem landing at the airport.

Nothing wrong

Dr. Leonita Gorgolan, Caraga health director, said she did not observe anything wrong in mid-air.

Gorgolan, who was among the unscathed passengers, said even when they left Manila, everything was normal.

"When we left Manila there was no problem. Until we felt like we bumped into something shortly after our plane landed at Bancasi," she said.

Despite the ordeal, Gorgolan commended the pilots for their "courage and presence of mind."

She said had the pilots panicked, more passengers could have been harmed.

As this developed, Costello said they were temporarily shutting down the airport as investigations were continuing. *Franklin A. Caliguid, Inquirer Mindanao*

Phivolcs warns vs megadike in Sorsogon

IROSIN, SORSOGON—THE PHILippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has cautioned the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) against its plan to construct a megadike to block lahar and mud from the slopes of Bulusan Volcano.

Resident volcanologist Bella Tubianosa said any structure that would be constructed must be thoroughly studied and planned to avoid tragic consequences.

She said DPWH engineers must first study the characteristics of the lahar so it could be taken into consideration in the planning.

Tubianosa, however, maintained that the best option is to relocate all the affected residents to ensure that they would be out of harm's way.

Not realistic

She said putting up a megadike in Barangay Cogon is not realistic since the lahar channel in that place is narrow and could not accommodate the superstructure.

The concept of permanent relocation was also favored by Army engineers who are now doing the clearing of volcanic debris that clogged the channel in Cogon.

Brig. Gen. Jorge Nomos, commanding general of the 51st Engineering Brigade, said relocating the residents would be the safest option.

Relocation

Nomos stressed that floods could occur anytime of the day, especially now that it's already the rainy season.

"If we can relocate those within the 9-kilometer radius as mentioned by Phivolcs, the better," he said.

The Army's 565th Engineering and Construction Battalion will stay in the area until it has completed the task of rehabilitating the damages caused by the flood while additional heavy equipment would be coming to augment those presently being utilized, he added. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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THE PEOPLE of Sorsogon line up for cheap rice from the National Food Authority. The ordeal to cope with rising cost of living and stagnant levels of wages comes amid plans made by public works officials to spend billions of pesos of public funds for a megadike, another project that was likely to just become a source of corruption, according to project critics. INQUIRER PHOTO

Race for village positions heats up as candidate seized

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—A CANDIDATE FOR barangay chairman in a remote village in Basey, Samar was abducted last Wednesday by a group of armed men, believed to be members of the New People's Army, while she was attending a political caucus in the area.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Ponce, commanding officer of the 62nd Infantry Brigade, based in Calbiga town in Samar, said that around 14 NPA members stormed Sitio Lanaga of Barangay Cancaiyas, Basey at around 7 p.m., fired their guns and abducted Elizabeth Gutierrez.

Ponce said their investigation showed that the rebels abducted Gutierrez because she was running against a relative of an NPA leader in the area.

Ponce identified the NPA leader as "Ka Maning" who belonged to the George Bolito Command of the Southern Samar Front Command, which is under the leadership of Lilia Bucatcat, or "Ka Laura." Ponce declined to identify the relative of Ka Maning.

The fate of Gutierrez, who is currently the barangay secretary of Cancaiyas, remained unknown until yesterday, Ponce said.

Ponce said that among those who witnessed the abduction was Gutierrez' son, Dennis, 19, who was not able to help his mother. "He as surrounded by four rebels with their guns trained on him," he said.

Cancaiyas, a remote village 15 kilometers from the town proper, is considered to be a rebel-influenced area.

It was identified as one of the two villages of Basey where the rebels were reported to be out to disrupt the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections. The other village was Mabini.

Early this week, another barangay chairman candidate in another town in Samar was shot dead by alleged NPA members.

Killed on Oct. 22 was Eloi Pecarro, in his 50s, and a former rebel returnee. He was shot in the chest by four armed men while he and his wife, who was not identified, was on their way home in Barangay Sta. Rosa, Villareal, Samar, after attending a wake, Ponce said.

The perpetrators fled after killing Pecarro, who was running for chairman of Sta. Rosa, located some 20 km from the town proper of Villareal.

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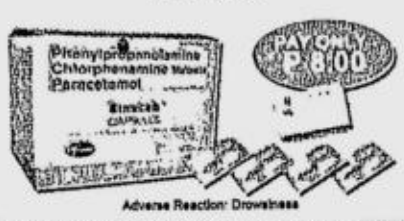

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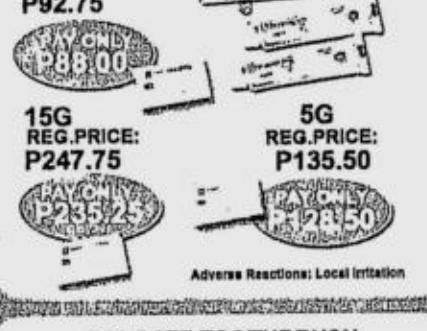

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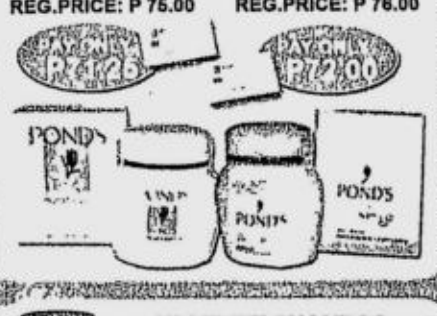

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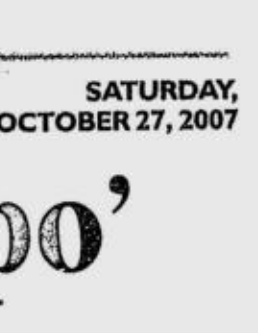

PANLILIO

CITY OF SAN Fernando—Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio told his supporters to view the cash distribution in Malacañang on Oct. 11 as part of the practice of traditional politics that their crusade for good governance should help end.

This was the first time that Panlilio, a Catholic priest, was known to have given that view since he confirmed the incident to the INQUIRER on Oct. 13.

P120 million

"These are my reflections. I think these funds were illegally disbursed and I want to relate this with our crusade," he told about 400 supporters in a consultation here on Wednesday night.

"Politicians had said that it had been a practice in Malacañang to give out money ... It is estimated that P120 million flowed on Oct. 11. You can imagine how many classrooms and public hospitals could have been repaired from that amount, how many public schoolteachers and soldiers could have benefited from that amount," he said.

"As I confront this issue, I relate it with the practice of traditional politics that breeds corruption and wrongdoings. This practice can be stopped if we unite so that the money should go to the people instead," he said.

Transparency

"We should then continue to struggle for transparency and accountability."

As of Wednesday, Panlilio said he was still trying to determine the source of the P500,000 that Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza gave to his chief of staff, Archie Reyes, as the three of them walked out of the Palace grounds after meeting President Macapagal-Arroyo.

'Politicians had said that it had been a practice in Malacañang to give out money ...'

Mendoza had said a woman in white handed these in two paper gift bags in a room where Interior Undersecretary Austere Panadero, Edward Plaza, a Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. official, and a man whom he did not know were present.

"We have made no final decision whether to return or keep the money. The [League of Provinces of the Philippines] has made contradictory statements," Panlilio said, referring to the earlier denials by LPP officials and the claims by Governors Joel Reyes of Palawan and Ben Evardone of Eastern Samar that the money came from the league's capability-building programs for new governors.

No documents

"If you're going to ask me if it came from our President, I cannot be certain with my answers because I have no concrete proof," Panlilio said.

Asked why he considered the money to be illegally disbursed, he said that until now, nobody has issued him a document to acknowledge where the money came from.

On the suggestion of Pampanga Bishop Pablo David, Panlilio said he would seek the advice and guidance of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines on what to do with the money.

David said the cash handouts should be "considered a moral issue."

"The problem did not start with Among Ed. They gave it to him but they do not want to admit they gave it to him. What is clear is that his staff received the money on Malacañang's grounds," David said.

Without Panlilio, a group of Pampanga officials trooped to Malacañang on Thursday to "show support" for Ms Arroyo. Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao led 13 provincial board members, 20 mayors, 20 vice mayors, 157 councilors and 468 barangay captains in the trip, according to the report of the Pampanga Mayors League that organized the event.

Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo, PML spokesperson, said Ms Arroyo was "very happy" that local officials in her home province came to express continuing confidence in her administration.

Guiao read a resolution expressing gratitude and confidence to the leadership of Ms Arroyo.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Barangay bets say no to vote buying

By Chito A. Fuentes
Tagbilaran City

'Maribojoc is bidding to make history not only because it is the first to hold the common assembly for barangay candidates but because of its declaration against vote buying'

A SMALL TOWN IN BOHOL IS taking a big step toward restoring the sanctity of the ballot when the majority of candidates for the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) polls signed a covenant spurning vote buying.

Maribojoc, a fifth-class municipality with an annual income of only P4 million and internal revenue allotment of P25 million, is just 14 kilometers north of Tagbilaran City. It has a population of 17,800 in 22 barangays over an area of 6,902 hectares.

Initiated by municipal local government operations officer Victor Lapiz, the covenant signing at the Maribojoc Cultural Center on Oct. 19 was witnessed by leading political figures who gave their commitment to the crusade.

Mayor Leoncio Evasco said the attendance was practically "90 percent" of the candidates.

Maribojoc is bidding to make history not only because it is the first to hold the common assembly for barangay candidates but because of its declaration against vote buying, Councilor Fructuoso Redulla said.

Evasco manifested his commitment along with provincial Board Member Jose Veloso, Vice Mayor Gabino Redulla and the majority of the municipal councilors.

Evasco won with four of his council candidates against the slate supported by Veloso, which included Redulla, with the same number of councilors. This indicates that the line is drawn right down the middle between the rival factions.

Since the first local election in 1988, only Veloso and Redulla had served as mayor until Evasco broke the monopoly this year.

Pervasive cynicism

Despite the commitment of the three main political figures to the covenant, the majority of the candidates who attended the Oct. 19 assembly voiced apprehensions about its viability.

CANDIDATES for barangay posts cross rice paddies to reach out to their voters in Barangay San Agustin, San Simon, Pampanga. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Fielding questions during the open forum, Lapiz could only shake his head over the inclination toward vote buying.

"Why are you afraid of those who want to buy votes when nearly all of us are here?" he asked.

Lapiz reminded the candidates that they themselves were in the best position to prevent the irregularity.

"Don't you recognize your rivals? Don't you know their leaders? Don't you know your voters? Since you are familiar with each other, you know what to do to guard each other," Lapiz stressed.

The cynicism is understandable. If election were a first name, its family name would have to be vote buying.

Addressing the candidates during the forum, Veloso lamented that despite his nearly 20 years of uninterrupted service to Maribojoc as mayor, vice mayor and board member, he was dislodged from the top spot this year "*tungod sa beinte-beinte* (because of the P20)" of another candidate.

A male candidate said that when he declared that he was running even though he had no money, a town official bluntly told his wife that he was nothing more than a "nuisance."

Evasco said he learned about retirees intending to spend their retirement benefits on their election.

Candidates who spend the money of their families or businesses will naturally make every effort to get them back when they win, he said.

Since there is no money in the barangay, he said they would turn to corruption.

"We have gone too far from the essence of the law," said Evasco, a former priest who went underground and was captured during martial law.

The mayor said it was time that the town restored the electoral exercise to what it should be—free, sacred, honest and orderly.

Fr. Efren Dolauta, Maribojoc parish priest, said that if there were no vote buying in this election, the elected ones would truly render service and not merely work.

"The difference between work and service is that you demand equal pay to the work that you put in; whereas you do not care so much about the pay that you receive when you render service," Dolauta said.

Some of the candidates admitted that they decided to run when they learned that the town officials were serious about stopping vote buying.

"This is favorable for the poor because they are now on equal footing with the rich candidates," a woman aspirant muttered.

Municipal election officer Bibiana Anquilero said a total of 561 candidates filed certificates of candidacies for 352 positions at stake. A total of 45 candidates are contending for 22 barangay chairmanships, with the remaining 346 vying for council seats.

Small step

Noting the unusual interest in this year's barangay election, Vice Mayor Redulla said that if he had his way, he would declare all candidates winners.

Evasco admitted that the Oct. 19 gathering was merely a "small step in a giant undertaking."

"I have heard that there are some candidates who did not attend (this gathering) because they intend to buy votes," he noted.

While some of the candidates admitted that they were "relieved" that they would no longer be spending much this election, the optimism remains guarded.

Evasco, however, made it clear that everybody has a stake. "You will be the ones to enforce this pact," he said.

Evasco did not say it during the assembly, but he told reporters later that "those who will test our resolve will suffer the consequences."

Although in office for barely four months yet, many candidates are willing to take Evasco's word, given his political will on many issues and peace and order.

A former trusted aide of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte who served in various positions, Evasco is making it clear that he is made of sterner stuff.

He is putting his reputation on the line in his first acid test as mayor, but he is willing to take the bull by the horn.

To prove that he is serious about eradicating vote buying in Maribojoc, Evasco told the assembly that he had "crossed the bridge, I won't buy votes next time."

The declaration was met with thunderous applause.

As to whether the optimistic response and categorical commitment will hold true however, only the Oct. 29 elections can tell.

Electric MassKara launches Bacolod City 'party strip'

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

THE LAUNCHING OF A party strip down Lacson Street in Bacolod City during the MassKara Festival was a big hit that drew people of all ages and saw the birth of a new tourism attraction for the city.

For two nights on Oct. 19-20, Bacolod staged the Electric MassKara, so-called because MassKara dancers wore costumes that were lighted up, at the strip that was closed to traffic from 2 p.m. to midnight.

The Electric MassKara was a first-time addition to the annual October festival, which has the public plaza as main venue and where the three-day street dancing competitions culminated.

The festival was used as a launching pad for turning Lacson Street, from 5th Street all the way down to North Drive where many restaurants are located, into a tourism belt, Mayor Evelio Leonardia said.

Former Negros Occidental Gov. Daniel Lacson Jr. called the staging of the first Electric MassKara a great idea and a success. "I am sure it will bring the MassKara Festival to new heights in the future," he said.

The party strip had restaurants bustling with activity, live bands keeping the crowds dancing in the streets, and rays of lights lighting up the sky.

On Oct. 19, dancers in lighted up costumes performed and on Oct. 20, models in fantasy costumes had the street as catwalk.

First-timers

"A new door to tourism has been opened," Lacson said.

German seafood processors and traders, who were his guests, were among those who joined the revelers. "This is what we want," they told him as soon as they walked down the strip and saw the lights, people and festive décor.

ELECTRIC Masskara dancers in fantasy costumes ANDY ALVAREZ/CONTRIBUTOR

"They (the Germans) asked me if they could please stay a little longer because they were having so much fun," Lacson said.

For banker Benjie Gonzaga and many of his friends, Friday and Saturday at the party strip was the very first time they had joined the MassKara.

"After 28 years, it was a first for many and they enjoyed the experience, I was really impressed," he said.

"Many people avoided the plaza festivities of the MassKara (in the past) because it is crowded and hot. But with the opening up of Lacson Street, now we have a place where we can be proud to bring our friends," Gonzaga said. He likened the festival to Rio de Janeiro's mardi gras.

Cugie Loarca, alumni relations officer of the University of Saint La Salle, said the Electric MassKara "is good because the festival organizers are reaching out to more people to come and participate in a more comfortable setting."

The event drew a mixed crowd from the older to the younger generations from various classes, and the streets were kept safe and fun, he said.

Crowds flocked to restaurants, many of which had set up tents for outdoor dining and a view of the dancers and the fantasy costume parade.

Several bands performed on three stages. Fireworks drew enthusiastic applause.

Celebrating the icons

Artists Joe Geraldo, Tristram Miraveles, Otay Hecita, Niel Bienevente, Dennis Ascalon and Charlie Co kept a face-painting activity going.

The festival theme this year was "Celebrating the Icons of Bacolod," referring to the symbols, institutions, landmarks, products and even the personalities that somehow have become representative of the city.

"These are the bandstand at the plaza, the San Sebastian cathedral, fighting cocks, sugar products like the *piaya* and more," said Eli Tajanlangit, overall director.

The 28th MassKara Festival was the prelude to the city's 70th founding celebration next year. "In the tradition of the old fiestas, this is the *bisperas* (eve) of the Big One," Tajanlangit said.

"So the creative team of the festival decided it is best to use MassKara 2007 as a launching pad of a program that will raise our awareness and consciousness of things about Bacolod, especially the things about our city that makes it livable, and, yes, lovable," he said.

Crowd favorite Rosario Anne Sales, 20, a nursing student of the University of Saint La Salle, was crowned 2007 Masskara Queen.

In the three-day street dancing competitions, the Paglaum Elementary School and Luisa Medel National High School topped the school category, Barangay 23 won in the barangay category, and Barangay Alijis was the grand champion in the open category.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Repair of Various Philippine Navy Vessels

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the **CY 2007 Maintenance Repair Program**, intends to apply the sum as stated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Philippine Navy Projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Nomenclature/Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	
Lot-1 Drydocking and other related repair of LT86	Php 18,429,000.00	October 31, 2007 9:00 AM	November 12,2007 9:00 AM	Php 6,000.00
Lot-4 Structural and other related repair of PG140	Php 3,459,421.00			Php 3,000.00
Lot-6 Fabrication of two (2) units steel hull LCVPs of BRP BACOLOD CITY (LC-550)	Php 3,395,000.00			Php 3,000.00

2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines now invites Eligible Bidders for the **Repair of Various Philippine Navy Vessels**. Delivery of the goods being procured and description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II and Section III of the Bidding Documents. ITB.
3. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PN BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 AM to 5:00 PM,*** **Monday** to **Friday**.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount *Mentioned in Para 1.* The method of payment will be *in the* ***form of cash.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *Armed Forces of the Philippines* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on ***October 31, 2007, 9:00 AM*** at **Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.**
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***November 12, 2007, 9:00 A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Surety Bond or Manager's Check. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. **Bid opening** shall be on ***November 12, 2007, 9:00 AM*** at **Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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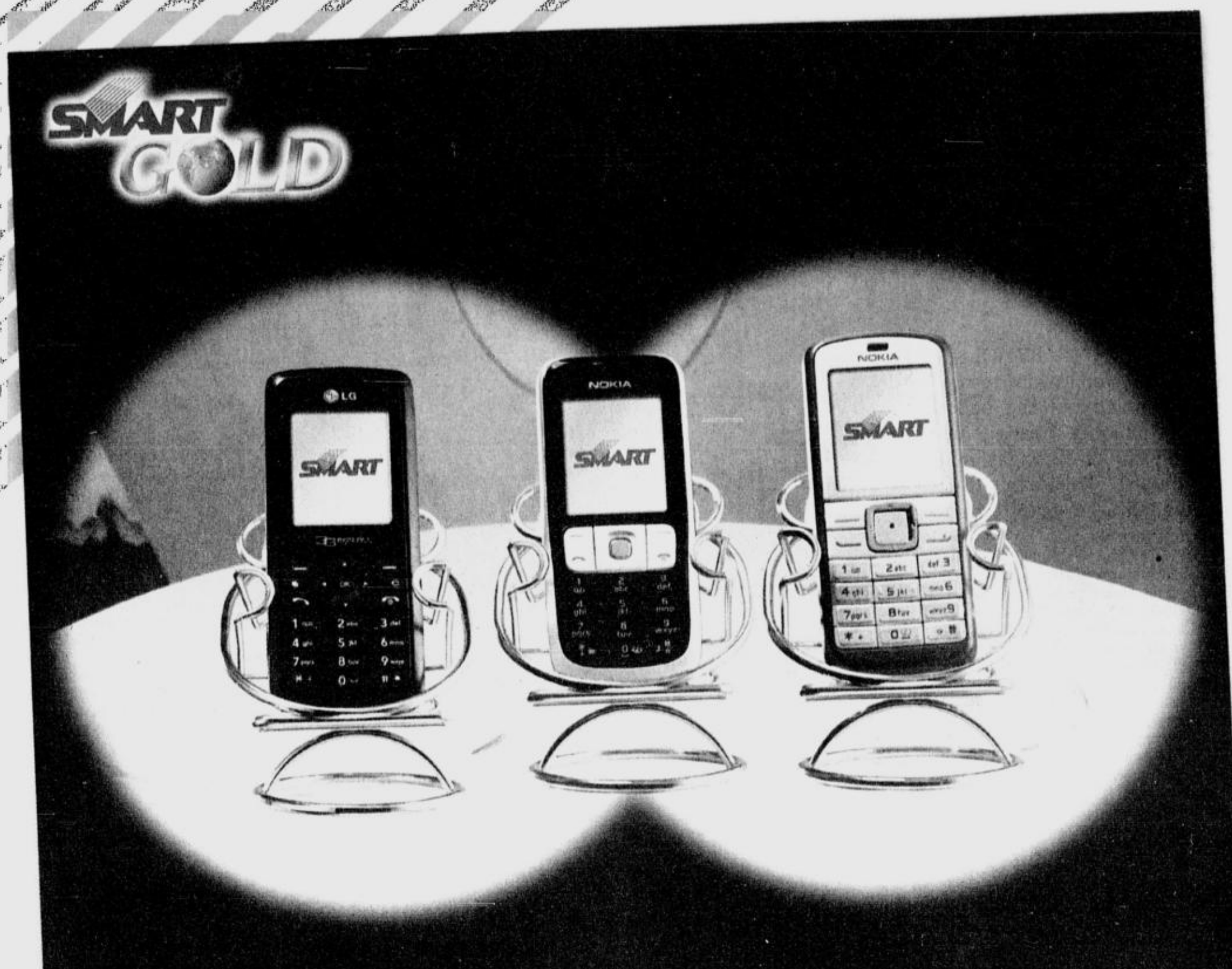

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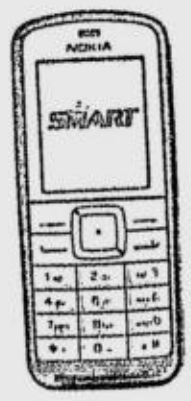
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Jeepney minimum fare is P7.50 again

Two new petitions for increase submitted to transportation board

By Riza T. Olchondra

STARTING NOV. 2, JEEPNEY PASSENGERS IN the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and Southern Luzon will pay the original P7.50 minimum fare suspended in December 2006.

But with the Land Transportation Franchise and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) looking into two other petitions for fare increases, the minimum could be raised to P8-P9.

LTFRB chair Thompson Lantion said in a telephone interview that the P7.50 fare was not an increase.

"The minimum fare will just return to its previous rate because jeepney drivers can no longer give discounts given the recent fuel price increases," he said.

In December 2006, the minimum fare was reduced by 50 centavos.

The LTFRB received two separate petitions for new fare hikes.

One petition seeks a minimum fare of P8, and another for P9.

Lantion said the LTFRB would conduct public hearings on the petitions.

"Of course we have to study the petitions as part of due process. We cannot say at this time whether or not these will be approved because we still have to consider the arguments from the transport side and the consumer side," Lantion said.

In June, jeepney groups Acto (Alliance of Concerned Transport Organization), Altodap (Alliance of Transport Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines), Pasang Masda (Pangkalahatang Sanggunian Manila and Suburbs Drivers' Association Nationwide Inc.), Fejodap (Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines), and Piston met with Lantion and urged him to act against further oil price increases.

The LTFRB approved the fare restoration on June 28 but the implementation was deferred because Malacañang ordered all proposed increases in public services to go through the National Economic Development Authority.

SUNSET SERENADE
Music fills the air as a man plays his guitar for strollers watching the sun set on Manila Bay. ERIK ARAZAS

Worker dies in fall from platform

By Julie M. Aurelio and Kenneth M. del Rosario

A CONSTRUCTION WORKER died while two others were injured when they fell from the platform of a hospital under construction at the Global City in Taguig City Thursday evening.

Declared dead on arrival at the Ospital ng Makati at around 6:45 p.m. was Camilo Obeja, 33. Melquiades Romagos, 54, and Albert dela Rama, 18, suffered multiple injuries and are still confined in the same hospital.

Meanwhile, in Quezon City, a 37-year-old cook was pronounced dead on arrival yesterday apprently due to a contusion in the head. The fatality was identified as Arturo Villanueva of Villa España in Barangay Tatalon who worked at Jo-Di's Dimsum.

In the Taguig incident, investigator PO2 Ralph Morelos said the platform where the workers stood apparently gave way. The victims' body straps also snapped.

Obeja, Romagos and dela Rama were working at the construction site of the St. Luke's Medical Center on 32nd St. cor 5th Ave, Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The victims were doing metal work inside the elevator shaft on the third floor when the platform gave way at around 5:50 p.m. The victims fell all the way to Basement 3, the investigator added.

He said two metal bars that supported the platform were still embedded in the elevator shaft while the victims' nylon body straps were still hanging.

In the Quezon City incident, police are investigating if the victim fell off the terrace accidentally or if foul play was involved. The victim was last seen resting on the 3rd floor terrace of their house.

Villanueva was discovered by his neighbor Melanie Cruz lying on the ground outside her home bleeding to death.

Police said the victim was last seen drinking with friends in the neighborhood hours before he died.

Intensive training for Taguig's English tutors

By Julie M. Aurelio

FORTY TEACHERS FROM PUBlic schools in Taguig City enrolled in a five-day intensive training program recently to increase their proficiency in written and spoken English.

Mayor Freddie Tiñga, who stressed the importance of the training, said: "The education of our youth greatly depends on our teachers. It is only apt that they undergo this special training because communications is integral in their work. They should serve as role models by being good and effective communicators."

The mayor asked experts from the Network of Outstanding Teachers and Educators, Inc (NOTED) to conduct the training that ended yesterday. The program was dubbed Communications Skills Enhancement Training (Comset).

"The failure of students to speak, read and write in good English can be attributed to the teachers' inability to teach the subject well. They have to serve as models of correct grammar and enunciation," said Dr. Elena Cutiongco, project director.

The Comset training module included listening and speaking exercises, reading and writing workshops and an intensive review of the English grammar.

The program was sponsored by the Metrobank Foundation, which signed a memorandum of agreement with the city government and the Department of Education and NOTED president Dr. Teresita Pedrajas.

Aniceto Sobrepeña, Metrobank Foundation president, said the program was one way to address the decline in quality of spoken and written English in schools.

Expert says blast at Glorietta was not accidental

FRIENDS WHO READ MY column Thursday about the reported altercation between Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the DILG chief had met his match.

My source at the Palace said Ermita allegedly suspected Puno of being the "brains" behind the distribution of bags of money to congressmen and local officials in Malacañang.

Ermita reportedly told Puno that the latter should have informed him beforehand about the distribution of the largesse since Puno was on his turf.

Ermita holds office in Malacañang, while Puno works in Quezon City.

The confrontation allegedly nearly ended in a fist fight had not President Gloria showed up in time, according to my source.

Puno's unpopularity among many people was summed up by a text message I received from one of my friends: "*Sana di naawat ni* gma *si* ermita. *masyado mayabang* puno (GMA should not have intervened in the Ermita-Puno fight. Puno is very arrogant)."

According to my Malacañang sources, Puno is very unpopular even among his fellow Cabinet members because he projects an image of being snooty.

Puno, who reportedly has an intelligence quotient (IQ) of a genius, allegedly holds in contempt some fellow Cabinet members, whom he considers to have "low IQ."

***

An explosives expert I interviewed said the explosion at the Glorietta 2 Mall was caused by a bomb, not by a mixture of methane gas and diesel.

The expert, who asked that his name not be mentioned, said if the blast was caused by a combination of methane and diesel, then it would have caused a fire since both methane and diesel are incendiary materials.

The Glorietta explosion didn't cause a fire.

Also, the septic tank at the Glorietta basement would have been blasted to pieces if the methane gas caused the explosion.

The expert said he learned that 10 days prior to the explosion, some workers did a welding job at the mall's basement where the blast came from.

The sparks from the welding job would have set off the explosion if the air in the basement was thick with methane gas, he said.

***

The government's policy of favoring foreigners over the locals is exemplified in the case of car smuggling.

While it gives much attention to car smuggling, the government glosses over the illegal entry of meat, poultry products and vegetables.

Car manufacturers in the country, which are multinational firms, have complained to the government about losing out to car smugglers.

Their complaint has been promptly attended to, what with the relentless seizure of smuggled cars shipped through the Subic Freeport, and the ports of Cebu and Manila.

But has the government paid attention to the complaints of poultry, hog and cattle raisers, and vegetable farmers on the smuggling or importation of beef, pork, poultry and vegetables?

Millions of local farmers have gone bankrupt because of unfair competition from smugglers or importers of meat products and vegetables.

Farmers are the backbone of our economy especially since we are still an agricultural country.

Must the government allow the death of our agriculture sector to please owners of big supermarkets that sell imported beef, pork and poultry products, as well as vegetables?

***

Mary Jo Roxas, 16, was operated on recently for a cyst in her ovary at a big hospital in San Juan City.

A few hours after the surgery, she was operated on again because of internal bleeding, allegedly because of a mistake in the first procedure.

The hospital and doctors are now demanding payment for the second surgery.

Why will the girl's parents be made to pay for the second operation when the doctors were just correcting the mistake made in the first surgey?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

Policeman, 4 robbery suspects killed in shootout

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

A POLICEMAN WAS KILLED IN an encounter with four suspected robbers in Quezon City late Thursday afternoon.

The four unidentified suspects also died in the incident.

Senior Insp. Fermar Ordiz of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) was hit in a spot not covered by his protective armor.

The suspects allegedly barged into the Philmar Power Center office on 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City at around 5:30 p.m. and divested employees of cash and valuables. Later, they boarded a white Toyota Tamaraw FX (PXK-108).

The victims immediately sought the assistance of the nearby "Mamang Police" Mobile Unit.

Agents of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region joined the chase that turned into a gun battle at the corner of 15th Avenue and P. Tuazon Streets in Cubao.

Ordiz was rushed to the PNP General Hospital but was declared dead on arrival.

One of the suspects was brought to the Quezon Memorial Medical Center, but died on the way. The other suspects died on the spot.

Recovered from the suspects were cash and personal belongings of the victims including ATM and credit cards, and cell phones amounting to about P80,000.

Also found in the crime scene were three cal. .38 revolvers, two without serial numbers.

The robbery victims said one of the suspects was about 30-35 years old, of medium built, with the word "Firestone" tattooed on his chest. He was wearing a blue polo shirt and combat boots.

Another suspect was around 20-25 years of age, of medium built, and clad in a white shirt and denim pants.

The third was about 30-35, of medium built, in denims and a cream jacket. The last member of the group was about 25-30 years old and wore a blue shirt and denim pants.

COASTAL CLEAN UP
Over 300 community volunteers from the Manila Alliance of Volunteers for the Environment, Unilever employees and various barangays from Manila's Clean River Zone I gathered at the Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard recently to clean up the coast. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
INTEGRATIVE CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVE DEV'T. FOUNDATION INC. 14 Annapolis St., Northeast Greenhills, San Juan City	Zeynep Emel Uluocak Turkish	Chemistry Teacher
INTEGRATIVE CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVE DEV'T. FOUNDATION INC. 14 Annapolis St., Northeast Greenhills, San Juan City	Yasemin Aydinlioglu Turkish	Math Teacher
INTEGRATIVE CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVE DEV'T. FOUNDATION INC. 14 Annapolis St., Northeast Greenhills, San Juan City	Gonul Aslan Turkish	Physics Teacher
INTEGRATIVE CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVE DEV'T. FOUNDATION INC. 14 Annapolis St., Northeast Greenhills, San Juan City	Mehrnet Biter Turkish	Biology Teacher
INTEGRATIVE CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVE DEV'T. FOUNDATION INC. 14 Annapolis St., Northeast Greenhills, San Juan City	Irfan Alper Gazel Turkish	Science Teacher
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park Makati City	Zaiyan Zhang Chinese	Engineer
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park Makati City	Cairu Weng Chinese	Mechanic
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park Makati City	Zhongbao Zhang Chinese	Engineer
IBM DAKSH BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES INCORPORATED 30/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Sanjay Dora Indian	Vice President for Operations
AMITASHWAR LENDING & TRADING CO. 47-E Dapitan St., Sta. Teresita, Quezon City	Mandeep Kaur Sidhu Indian	Sales Representative
DOABA LENDING INVESTOR & TRADING COMPANY 2242-B Singalong St., Malate, Manila	Daljit Kaur Indian	Marketing Manager
KEYMAXX CORPORATION Unit 605 Summit One, Office Tower, 530 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City	Mijung Jung Korean	CAM Engineer
HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL INC. 42 Ponce St., San Lorenzo Village Makati City	Fabrice Petit French	Administrative Coordinator
TRI-PHIL. INTERNATIONAL INC. B1 L8 RM Tiosejo Industrial Complex, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	Keiji Katayama Japanese	Trion Customer Representative
NEXTFOCUS, INC. 66/F Unioil Center Bldg., 1222 Acacia St. cor. Commerce Ave., Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Yusuke Ochiai Japanese	Customer Service Representative (CSR)
CHINA STATE (PHILS.) CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CORPORATION Unit 3102 Orient Square Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Yi Gao Chinese	Civil Engineer
CCK CITY NETWORK, INC. Unit 3004 Summit One Office Tower, 530 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City	Masatoshi Saito Japanese	General Manager
CEEB-UAA RESOURCES EXPLORATION CORP. Rm. 416 National Life Insurance Bldg., 6762 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Zhiping Qin Chinese	Consultant
TOYO CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. 4/F Princess Bldg., 104 Esteban St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Iwao Mitani Japanese	Chief, Engineering Section
REAL COOL TRADING CO. INC. Pas. 1-A3 Galleria Shopping Center, Taft Ave., Pasay City	Weiqiang Yang Chinese	Sales Representative
TARLII MINING CORPORATION Unit 1206 Security Bank Centre, 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Kin Kwong Ma Chinese	Contract Manager
REAL COOL TRADING CO. INC. Pas. 1-A3 Galleria Shopping Center, Taft Ave., Pasay City	Liangliang Wang Chinese	Sales Representative
DALCHE REAL TRADING CO. 625 Fundidor St., Binondo, Manila	Zhenjiang Wang Chinese	Sales Representative
MANTEXT TRADERS LTD. CO. U-8 San Diego Fishery Bldg., 462 C. Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila	Fushun Chen Chinese	Sales Representative
ASIA PACIFIC CHINESE MEDIA INC. G/F Noah's Ark Bldg., 303 Escolta St., Binondo, Manila	Shanshan Lu Chinese	Assistant Editor
GLOBAL INTEGRATED FARM TECHNOLOGIES AND SYSTEMS, INC. 9/F Strata 100 Bldg., Ortigas, Pasig City	Gregory Anthony Galea Australian	President
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LIMITED 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Wijaya Hendra Indonesian	Customer Service Representative
PHILIPPINE PLAZA HOLDINGS, INC. (SOFITEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA) CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Xiatao Xu Chinese	Guest Relations Officer
COSMO MEDICAL INC. Lot 64-A Celery Road, FTI Complex, Taguig City	Dongsoo Lee Korean	President
VIGEN BODYCARE, INC. 2/F 220-B Wilson St., San Juan City	Myung Sim Oum Korean	Operation Manager
JEIL KOPHIL CORPORATION Unit 703 Alpap Bldg., Trade St. cor. Investment Drive, Alabang Muntinlupa City	Jae Hong Yang Korean	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI–October 27, 2007)

Raps vs QC barangay official

By Jeannette I. Andrade

TWO BARANGAY COUNCIL members filed charges of grave threats and violation of the Commission on Elections-imposed gun ban in the Quezon City prosecutor's office against an incumbent barangay captain in the locality.

Barangay Teacher's Village West council members Serafin Sison and Jose Jimbo Saret claimed that Barangay Capt. Federico Jong, brandishing a .45 caliber pistol, had threatened them with harm.

In their sworn statements, the pair alleged that at around 6 p.m. of Oct. 1, before the adjournment of a regular session of the Sangguniang Pambarangay, Jong told them that he had learned there were some council members who were planning to file charges against him on the suspicion that he (Jong) was hiring "flying" voters.

Jong reportedly said that the persons planning to harm him should reconsider their move because he would hurt them.

Threat

The barangay official allegedly pulled out a pistol from his drawer and threatened those who were against him.

He also reportedly challenged Sison and Saret to settle the score immediately.

Apart from the criminal offenses, the complainants likewise charged Jong with grave misconduct, oppression and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service.

METROBRIEFS

Manila cops to get allowance

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday urged policemen to ditch the practice of "*kotong*" (extortion) in exchange for a P500 monthly allowance to be given before Christmas. "Love your uniform, love your profession. Do not succumb to the temptations of the police service," he said at the annual general assembly of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association Inc. Lim was applauded when he announced that the policemen would receive a lump sum of P3,000 each in December. A P500,000 fund for livelihood loans will also be allotted to members of Manila's Finest, he added. ***Allison W. Lopez***

Nicolasa P. Barros; 91

NICOLASA Purugganan-Barros, retired school teacher and wife of the late Santos Barros, died at the age of 91 on Thursday, Oct. 25. She is survived by her children, Dina and Abe Ellorin, Carmelita and Bobby Lopez, Carmencita, Benita and David Murrel, Nanette, Cecille and Jade Presbitero and Sonny and Sonia (both deceased); sister Enriquetta, brother Ricardo and grandchildren Nico, Nichi, Max, Boom, Justine, Jeric, Kiko, Miranda, Dinky, Leon and Jaime. Her body lies at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church, Mahinhin Street, UP Village, Quezon City. Burial plans will be announced later.

Boy with liver defect needs help

REEVE DALO, 7, HAS hepatoblastoma, a rare and aggressive tumor in the liver.

His condition has worsened in the past weeks after he missed chemotherapy sessions because of the family's lack of financial resources, said his mother Remedios, of Apple Street, Sampaloc Site II, BF Parañaque City.

"He finds it difficult to move on his own, so we have to carry him wherever he needs to go," added Remedios who works as a cashier for an eatery. Her husband is a construction worker.

Dalo was confined for 11 days at the UST Hospital in 2006 due to an enlargement of the abdomen. After he was brought back to the hospital a month later because he was having convulsions, a biopsy and ultrasound was conducted on him. The results showed the boy also has chronic hepatitis.

Those who want to help the young Dalo may contact Remedios at cell no. 0906-3096287. Her RCBC bank account number is 121426195-9. ***Santiago R. Alcantara***

US ups nuke tensions with new Iran sanctions

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States on Thursday escalated tensions over Iran's nuclear drive and alleged backing for terrorism with a raft of new sanctions against the Islamic republic's military and banks.

Iran denounced the unilateral sanctions as illegal and "doomed to failure" and Russia sounded a note of concern. But US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Washington was well within its rights.

"We're taking additional actions to defend our interests and our citizens, and to help our friends to secure their countries," she told reporters.

The sanctions target the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), accused of spreading weapons of mass destruction, and the IRGC's elite Quds Force, which was designated as a supporter of terrorism.

Three Iranian state-owned banks were also blacklisted, along with IRGC-controlled companies and the logistics arm of Iran's defense ministry, as the United States stepped up a drive to squeeze Iran out of global banking.

"It is plain and simple—reputable institutions do not want to be bankers to this dangerous regime," Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said.

"The IRGC is so deeply entrenched in Iran's economy and commercial enterprises, it is increasingly likely that if you are doing business with Iran, you are doing business with the IRGC," he said.

The US administration has tried and failed for years to exert pressure on Iran, which it accuses of fomenting global terrorism, supporting insurgents in Iraq and working to develop an atomic bomb.

President George W. Bush suggested last week a nuclear-armed Iran could trigger "World War III" and Vice President Dick Cheney spoke on Sunday of "serious consequences" unless the Islamic republic comes to heel.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the Pentagon was conducting "routine" contingency planning for military options against Iran, but stressed diplomatic and economic pressure remained the focus.

Responding to the US sanctions, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned against making a bad situation worse.

"You can run like crazy carrying razors—it is not the best way to resolve the problem," he said at an EU-Russia summit in Portugal.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Mohammad Ali Hosseini also lashed out after the US announcement, according to state media.

"The hostile American policies towards the respectable people of Iran and the country's legal institutions are contrary to international law, without value and—as in the past—doomed to failure," he said.

"The ridiculous accusations by American officials cannot save them from the Iraqi crisis that they have themselves created," Hosseini said.

Rice stressed the US wanted a diplomatic solution, but warned: "If they choose to continue down a path of confrontation, the US will act with the international community to resist these threats of the Iranian regime."

Democratic presidential hopeful Chris Dodd said the announcement "smacks, frankly, of a dangerous step toward armed confrontation with Iran."

The United States has been frustrated by Russian and Chinese reluctance to impose a third round of UN sanctions over Iran's nuclear program, and European countries such as France and Germany have longstanding commercial ties to Iran.

Senior US officials said despite having little direct leverage over Iran, the United States was sending a "powerful" message to major trading nations whose banks rely on the dollar-dominated financial system.

"China, for instance, has increased its trade with Iran at a time when most other members of the United Nations Security Council are decreasing trade with Iran," Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns said.

US officials said these were the broadest sanctions imposed on Iran since the country's Islamic revolution in 1979. It is also the first time the United States has directly sanctioned another country's military. *AFP*

ASSESSING THE DAMAGE
Standing amid the rubble, US President George W. Bush puts his arms around Kendra and Jay Jeffcoat whose home was destroyed by wildfires around San Diego, California, on Oct. 25. Firefighters won the upper hand against most of California's wildfires on Thursday, though several still burned out of control. REUTERS

Hepatitis scandal sparks anger at Japanese gov't

TOKYO—ERIKO FUKUDA WAS an active young woman of 20 when she was told she had contracted potentially deadly hepatitis C after being treated with a tainted blood product as an infant and needed costly and grueling treatment.

This week, she was outraged when Japanese health ministry officials admitted to possessing data that would have helped them to identify and warn hundreds of similarly afflicted patients years ago, before their illnesses worsened.

"It is unforgivable that people who did no wrong were forced into bitter lives, robbed of their dreams, their families, their health and their life, and left in tears," wrote the 26-year-old Fukuda—one of more than 170 plaintiffs who have sued the Japanese government and drug makers—on her blog.

The affair, which coincides with a separate scandal at the defense ministry, has embarrassed Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda's month-old government, forcing him to apologize and pledge remedies after what critics say were decades of official neglect.

"Although the (health) ministry had a list of people suspected of having contracted hepatitis from blood products, they ignored the list and did not do anything about it for many years," the prime minister said in his weekly e-mail magazine.

"Hearing the bitter voices of these people, I feel desperately sorry ... and I am fully aware of my own responsibility," he added.

The scandal has given fresh ammunition to resurgent opposition parties, which control parliament's upper house and are pushing for an early election for the powerful lower chamber.

Critics say the affair, which has dominated the media this week, is a disturbing rerun of coverups that led to nearly 2,000 hemophiliacs being exposed to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the early 1980s.

About 10,000 people have been estimated to have contracted hepatitis C from tainted coagulants. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
Puerto Princesa City Water District
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
263 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Tel. Nos. (048) 433-2408 / 433-6032 / 433-6802
Fax No. (048) 433-6803

INVITATON TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Puerto Princesa City Water District through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of the Project : Supply & Delivery of C.I. Fittings (Lot I), Valves and Fire Hydrants (Lot II), uPVC Pipes (Lot III) and G.I. and Brass Fittings (Lot IV)

Location : Puerto Princesa City Water District Stockyard, Brgy. Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City.

Description of the Project :

	COST
LOT I – C.I. FITTINGS	2,507,878
LOT II – VALVES AND FIRE HYDRANT	1,184,690
LOT III – uPVC PIPES	7,213,601
LOT IV – G.I. AND BRASS FITTINGS	4,519,699
TOTAL	15,425,867

Approved Budget For the Contract : Fifteen Million Four Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-seven Pesos Only (Php15,425,867.00)

Delivery Period : Thirty (30) Calendar Days from the receipt of the Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 30, 2007 – November 23, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	November 14, 2007, 1:30 P.M., PPCWD GM's Room
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	November 28, 2007, 1:30 P.M.
4. Opening of Bids	November 28, 2007, 1:30 P.M., PPCWD GM's Office

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of P2,500.00 for Lot I, P1,200.00 for Lot II, P7,200 for Lot III and P4,500.00 for Lot IV to the Puerto Princesa City Water District Cashier.

The Puerto Princesa City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. VICENTE D. ABREA
PPCWD BAC Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 27 & Nov. 4, 2007)

Mexicans miss money from relatives in US

EL RODEO, MEXICO—FOR years, millions of Mexican migrants working in the United States have sent money back home to villages like this one, money that allows families to pay medical bills and school fees, build houses and buy clothes or, if they save enough, maybe start a tiny business.

But after years of strong increases, the amount of migrant money flowing to Mexico has stagnated. From 2000 to 2006, these remittances grew to nearly $24 billion a year from $6.6 billion, increasing more than 20 percent some years. In 2007, the increase so far has been less than two percent.

Migrants and migration experts say a flagging American economy and an enforcement campaign against undocumented workers in the United States have persuaded some migrants not to try to cross the border illegally to look for work. Others have decided to return to Mexico. And many of those who are staying in the United States are sending less money home.

Estrella Rivera, a slight 27-year-old in this stone-paved village in Guanajuato state in west-central Mexico, was hoping to use the money her husband, Alonso, sent back from working illegally in Texas to build a small clothing shop at the edge of her garden. But a month ago, Alonso Rivera returned home. His hours at a Dallas window-screen factory were cut back and rumors spread that he would inevitably have to produce a valid Social Security number.

Now, he works odd jobs or tends the cornfields.

Until last year, the American housing trades absorbed hundreds of thousands of new Latin migrants, and the hardships of the trip north seemed to pale beside the near certainty of finding work. *NYT*

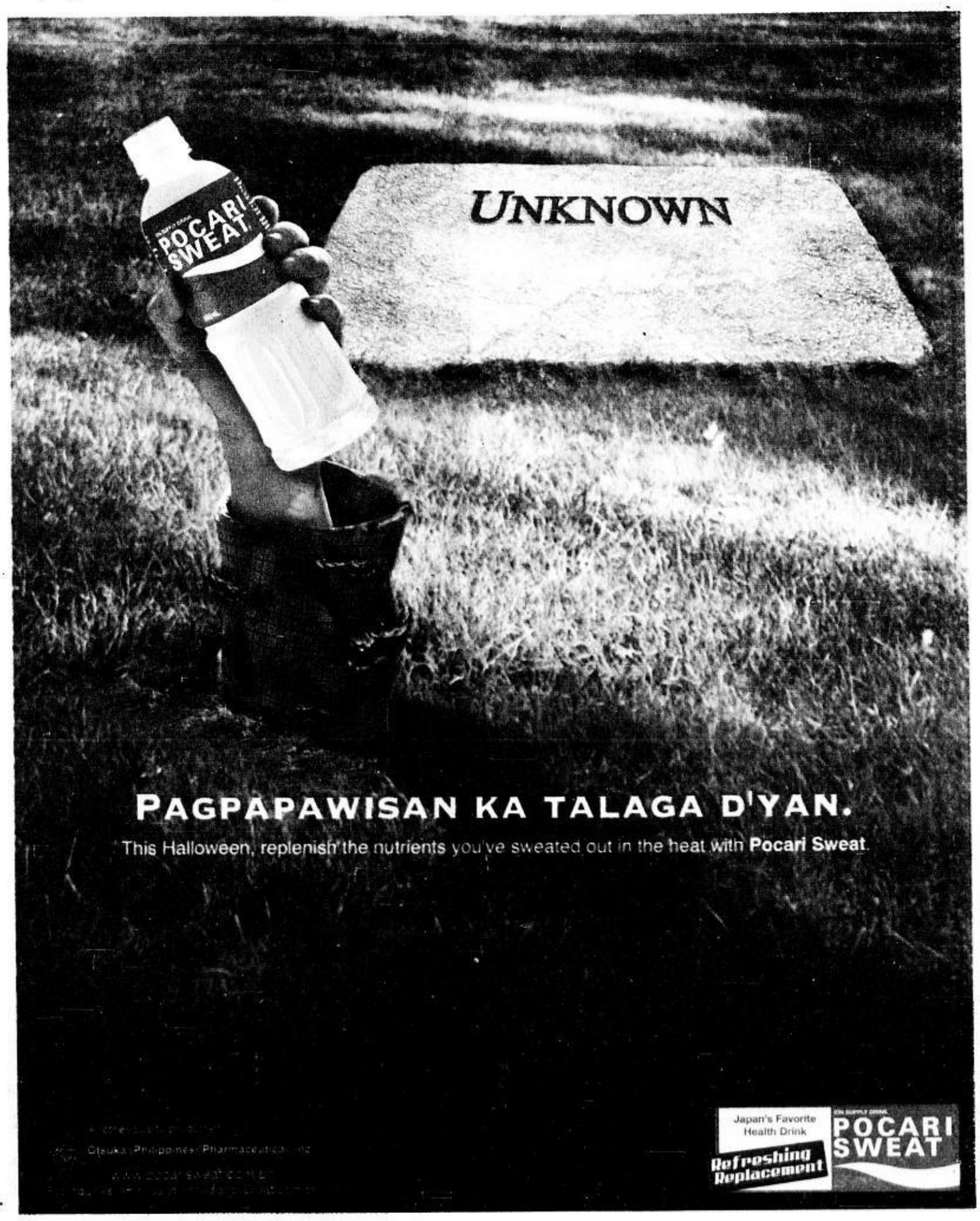
WORLDBRIEFS

Mass beatification of Spanish martyrs

MADRID—The Catholic Church is preparing to beatify 498 of its members killed during the Spanish Civil War, putting them on the path to possible sainthood but reviving memories of a conflict that still divides Spain. Most of those to be honored at Sunday's ceremony in Rome, the biggest mass beatification ever and to be attended by thousands of Spanish pilgrims, were priests or nuns killed by left-wing militias at the outbreak of the 1936-39 war. Many Catholic clergy and Church leaders sided with Francisco Franco in the conflict, which began when the general led a military coup against the left-wing government of the then Spanish Republic and ended with his installation as a dictator. Over decades, the Church in Spain has gathered evidence that hundreds of its members died during the conflict for their faith, making them eligible for beatification. *Reuters*

UN warns of rapid decay of environment

PARIS—The human population is living far beyond its means and inflicting damage to the environment that could pass points of no return, according to a major report issued Thursday by the United Nations. Climate change, the rate of extinction of species and the challenge of feeding a growing population are putting humanity at risk, the UN Environment Program said in its fourth Global Environmental Outlook since 1997. "The human population is now so large that the amount of resources needed to sustain it exceeds what is available at current consumption patterns," Achim Steiner, the executive director of the Environment Program, said in a telephone interview. The world population has been increasing, to 6.7 billion from five billion two decades ago. But the land available to each person has long been shrinking, to five acres in 2005 from 19.5 acres in 1900, the report said. *NYT*



The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Suu Kyi talks with Burma junta official

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL BROADCAST STAFF-RTVM
MALACANANG, MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : **Procurement of Teleprompting Equipment**
Location : RTVM Bldg., Gate 6, Malacanang, Manila
Approved Budget For the Contract : Php 3,326,322.00
Delivery Period : 30 days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for the bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

	Activities	Date	Time	Place
1)	Issuance of Bid Documents	October 27-November 3, 2007	10:00AM to 5:00 PM	PBS-RTVM
2)	Pre-Bidding Conference	November 8, 2007	2:00 PM	PBS-RTVM
3)	Last Day of Submission and Opening of Bids	November 21, 2007	10:00AM	PBS-RTVM

Bid Documents including details of specification will be available at the PBS-RTVM Procurement Section of the Admin. and Finance Division (c/o Mr. Cyrus M. Reputana) Tel Nos. 734-5681/735-6187 to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 700.00 to the Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM Cashier.

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by : **(Sgd.) Melba B. Aligaen**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 2007-10-0007

LPG CYLINDER OWNERSHIP AND OBLIGATIONS RELATED THERETO

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act Nos. 7638 (Department of Energy Act of 1992) and 8479 (Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998), Batas Pambansa Blg. 33 as amended by Presidential Decree 1865 (Defining and penalizing certain prohibited acts involving petroleum/petroleum products), and under pertinent rules and regulations, the DOE has the power to monitor, supervise and regulate the petroleum industry and impose corresponding administrative penalties for violations thereof;

WHEREAS, disputes and disagreements among industry players have increased in the recent years regarding generally, the ownership of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders, owing to the absence of clear guidelines defining such ownership, misunderstanding by consumers and dealers alike, and the inordinate indifference of industry players to address this particular concern amongst themselves;

WHEREAS, the DOE has already issued Department Circular No. DC2000-05-007, requiring among others that the owners or sources of LPG cylinders to emboss their brand and ownership markings on LPG cylinders, in an attempt to identify the owners thereof for purposes of accountability;

WHEREAS, illegal practices in LPG industry are escalating, more particularly in the refilling LPG cylinders without the prior approval or consent of the owner of the LPG cylinders, in the process depriving the latter of reasonable business return, fomenting unsafe handling practice, and thus increasing risk and danger to the consuming public;

WHEREAS, there is now a pressing need to establish clear directives in order to diminish, if not totally eliminate, illegal practices and abuses such as above, to prevent evasion of liability on the part of LPG industry players, and to provide clear guidelines and reference on the ownership of LPG cylinders, to enable the Department to identify the proper liable persons and impose the appropriate penalty thereof;

WHEREAS, in consideration of the foregoing, the following guidelines are hereby promulgated to govern these concerns:

SECTION 1. The brand owner whose permanent mark/markings appear/s on the LPG cylinder shall be presumed the owner thereof, irrespective of the party in custody or possession of the cylinder, and regardless of whether such cylinder is, or continues to be, properly marked, stamped or identified to contain its LPG brand, or whether such cylinder is in compliance, or continues to comply with any other product or quality standard prescribed under law, by the DOE or by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), unless there is any unequivocal proof or indication that such cylinder was sold, alienated, or otherwise disposed of by the brand owner to an unrelated third party under a written instrument.

SECTION 2. The brand owner shall have the obligation to ensure that its cylinders comply with all required product quality, quantity and safety standards and specifications before they are released for sale/distribution and while they are in circulation: Provided that receipt by the DOE of a verified notice or report from the brand owner regarding any loss, stolen or missing LPG cylinders shall *prima facie* relieve the cylinder owner of the obligation to ensure the quality, safety and exact net content of such LPG cylinders. Such report may be rebutted by contrary evidence.

SECTION 3. The brand owner shall issue authorization to entity/firm authorized to refill their LPG cylinders. Consequently, an entity/firm who shall refill LPG cylinders without authority from the brand owner shall be charged with "Illegal Refilling" and corresponding sanctions shall be applied;

SECTION 4. Upon notice of this Circular, all brand owners shall immediately commence LPG cylinder audit and recovery program for a period not exceeding six (6) months from effectivity of this Circular; and report the same to OIMB.

Provisions to complement this definition may be issued subsequently, as necessary.

Penalties and sanctions for violations of this Circular shall be covered by existing regulations, including DOE D.C. No. 2000-06-010, or amendments thereto.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately upon its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Oct. 13, 2007.

(Sgd.) **ANGELO T. REYES**
Secretary
Department of Energy

(PDI–Oct. 27, 2007)

BANGKOK—THE BURMA (Myanmar) junta's talks with detained democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi were no more than a bid to deflect criticism of its bloody crackdown on protesters before top UN envoys visit, analysts say.

The Nobel peace prize winner on Thursday was briefly allowed out of her home, where she has spent 12 of the past 18 years under house arrest, to meet with Labour Minister Aung Kyi, who was named to build ties with the opposition.

Although no details of the hour-long talk have been released, images of the meeting were broadcast on state television, a rarity in a country where Suu Kyi has spent years out of the public eye.

"It was significant in a sense that at least the military and Suu Kyi held talks," Chaichoke Chulsiriwong, an expert on Burma at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University, told AFP on Friday.

"But we have to remain cautious," he added.

The junta rarely has direct dealings with Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy party won 1990 elections but was never allowed to govern.

In appointing Aung Kyi, viewed as a moderate in the junta, the ruling generals seemed to indicate the military was prepared for at least a minimal level of contact.

"But we can never trust this military government. ... The ruling generals will do everything to ease international pressure, which is very strong after the crackdown," Chaichoke said.

AUNG San Suu Kyi during a meeting with newly-appointed Burma Liaison Minister Aung Kyi in Rangoon on Oct. 25. AP

At least 13 people were killed and more than 2,100 people locked up by security forces that suppressed the September protests—the biggest challenge to military rule in nearly two decades—with bullets, baton charges and tear gas.

The junta has been widely condemned for its actions, and needs to be seen as taking steps ahead of next week's expected visit by UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari, said Debbie Stothard of Alternative Asean Network on Burma, a human rights group.

Gambari, who is making his second trip to Burma since the unrest began, will be followed by Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, the UN special rapporteur on human rights.

The junta's meeting with the opposition leader was "damage control," Stothard said.

"Quite clearly the regime is under pressure to deliver some sort of development, but this isn't that breakthrough yet," she said.

The international community must not let up pressure on the regime.

"Essentially, the situation has not changed, the witch hunt is still ongoing, people are still in detention," she added.

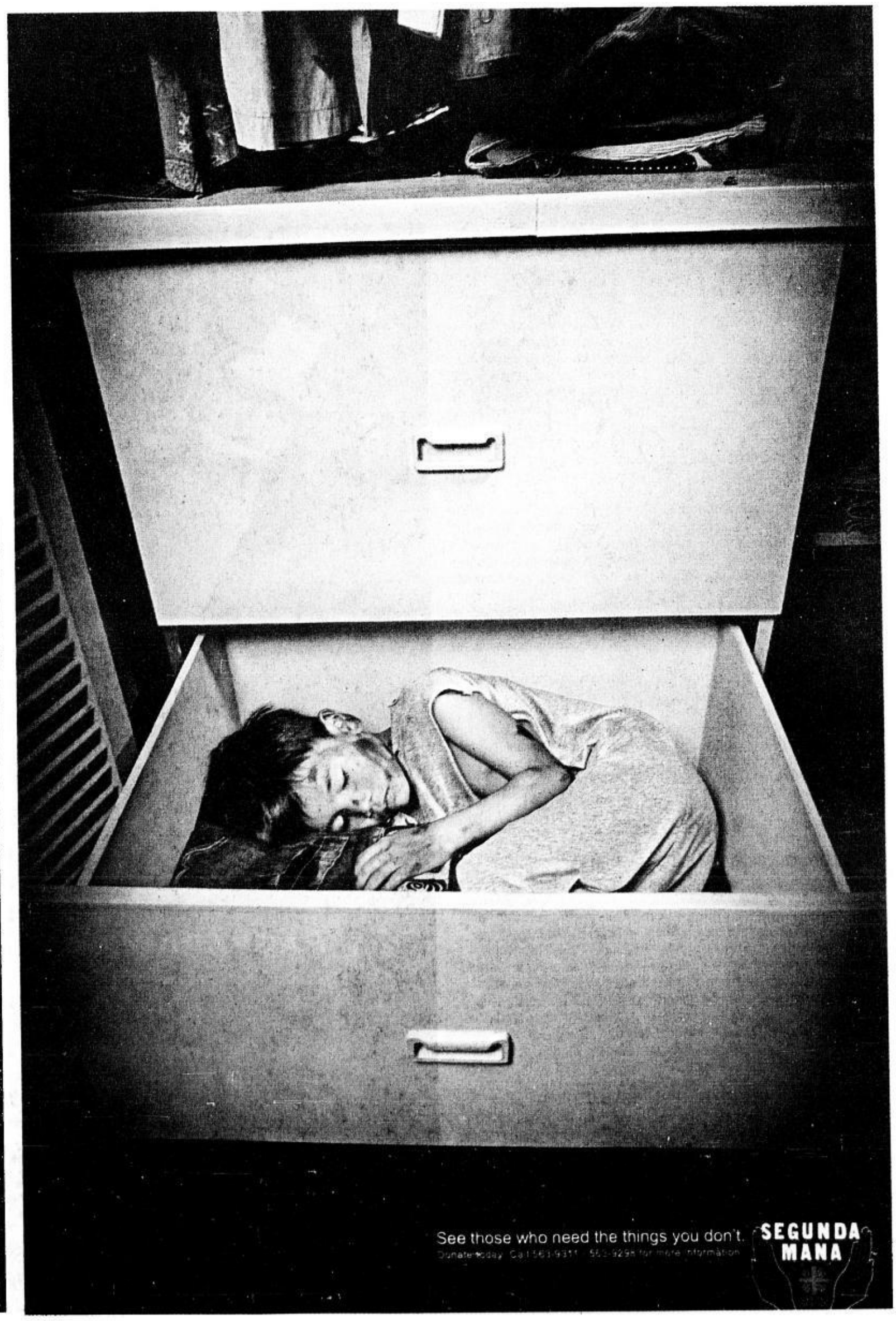
The meeting, however, could have been an attempt to dictate what Suu Kyi can say to the UN envoys, whom she is likely to meet, Stothard said.

The regime was "trying to set limits on what she says and does," she said.

Suu Kyi has staunchly refused to drop her support for international sanctions on the regime, a condition set by junta leader Gen. Than Shwe for further talks toward national reconciliation.

Knowing she is not likely to change her stance could give the generals an excuse to abandon future talks, said Yoshihiro Nakanishi, a Burma expert from Japan's Kyoto University, where Suu Kyi studied during the 1980s.

"If talks do not materialize, the military government can easily blame Aung San Suu Kyi," he said. *AFP*



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WHAT'S INSIDE

Red Sox pitchers thwart Rockies/A25

Lady Stags fan V-League streak, turn back luckless Lady Pirates

GAMES TOMORROW (*The Arena in San Juan*)
3 p.m.—Letran vs UST
5 p.m.—Lyceum vs Ateneo

By Romina S. Austria

SLOWLY BUT SURELY, SAN SEBASTIAN College is bullying its way into the list of Shakey's V-League favorites.

The Lady Stags needed to steady themselves through several shaky moments but prevailed anyway in straight sets, blanking the Lyceum Lady Pirates, 25-22, 26-24, 25-16, to keep their record unblemished three games into their campaign in the country's premier women's volleyball league at The Arena in San Juan.

Amid UST's bid for a second straight title, La Salle's aim to defend its crown and Ateneo's preseason hype, all it took was a third straight victory for the Lady Stags to show that they deserved to be mentioned in the same breath as the tournament favorites.

A gut-busting five-set victory over the Lady Eagles set the stage for this latest triumph by the Lady Stags, who needed a lot of crisp attacks to get through the defense of the Lady Pirates.

Lyceum dropped its third straight assignment.

Lady Eagles soar

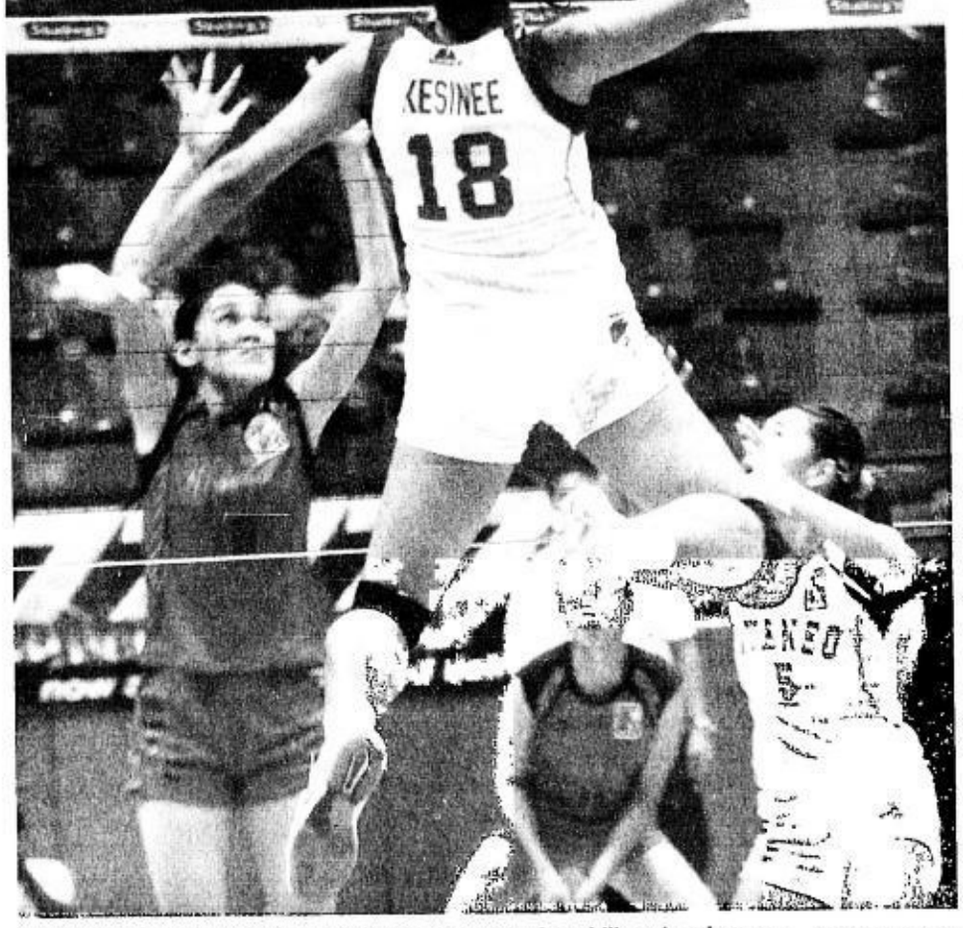
Ateneo got back from that defeat to San Sebastian by cruising past Letran, which also absorbed a third straight defeat, 25-13, 25-17, 25-10.

Guest player Lithawat Kesinee of Thailand again provided the killer blows, scoring at will to tow the Lady Eagles to the victory in a little past an hour. It was the second win on three starts for Ateneo, which created a three-way logjam at second place with the Tigresses of UST and the Adamson Lady Falcons.

Kesinee, a two-time SEA Games veteran, finished with 28 points built around 13 kills. So imposing was the Thai during the game that the rest of the Lady Eagles simply provided her with adequate support on the way to the victory.

The Lady Knights, who had no answer whatsoever to Kesinee's show of force, were led by Rossan Fajardo and Bangladesh Pantaleon, who chipped in eight and seven points, respectively. Guest player Marinel Carolina was limited to just two points.

Meanwhile, the league, sponsored by Shakey's, announced that there will be no telecast of the games on Sunday. Because of previous commitments by television carrier NBN-4, the Ateneo-Letran match will be aired today starting at 1 p.m.



THAI Lithawat Kesinee (No. 18) of Ateneo soars for a kill against Letran. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Gabe hopes to show real stuff today

A WEEK OF PRACTICE MAY BE GOOD enough for Fil-Am Gabe Norwood when Hapee Toothpaste shoots for its second straight win against San Mig Coffee in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup today.

"It will be a good gauge for Norwood," said Hapee coach Jun Noel of the 6-foot-5 top rookie pick. "We're hoping he'll be able to adjust by then."

The Complete Protectors will vie for a share of the lead with Toyota Balintawak in the 4 p.m. main game, right after the 2 p.m. encounter between the Harbour-RP Team and Bacchus Energy Drink at The Arena in San Juan.

STANDINGS	W	L
Toyota Bal.	2	0
SM Coffee	1	0
Hapee	1	0
Harbour	1	0
RP Team	1	1
Bacchus	0	1
Mail & More	0	2
Pharex	0	2

GAMES TODAY
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
2 p.m.—RP Team vs Bacchus
4 p.m.—San Mig Coffee vs Hapee

Noel expects more from Norwood, who delivered 10 points and seven rebounds in Hapee's 80-74 victory over Mail and More last Tuesday despite only four days of practice.

"He hasn't shown his real game," said Noel.

Norwood's presence seemed to have boosted his teammates' confidence as Larry Rodriguez, Mark Borboran and Alfie Grijaldo combined for 46 points in their opening-day stint.

"Everyone's motivated," said Noel. *Jasmine W. Payo*

P'foods grabs PBA lead

Giants turn back Beverage Masters; Aces trip Tigers

GAME TODAY (*Roxas City*)
5 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Welcoat

By Musong R. Castillo

ANOTHER GAME, ANOTHER COMEback for Purefoods.

The Tender Juicy Giants rallied from the depths of another formidable deficit last night to win a third straight game, creaming Magnolia, 93-90, for the solo lead in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum.

Purefoods rose from 14-31 down after the first period, using a high-scoring third quarter and a whirlwind finish to inflict a first loss on the powerhouse Beverage Masters and duplicate its finest start in five years.

The last time Purefoods opened up with a 3-0 card was in the 2002 edition of this tournament, when it went all the way to win the championship.

James Yap and Kerby Raymundo hit key baskets in the stretch, with the 2006 MVP Yap rounding out scoring in the final 1.7 seconds with insurance charities off Dondon Hontiveros.

"I told them that if we want to be the best, then we have to beat the best," said coach Ryan Gregorio, who steered his wards past double digit deficits over Sta. Lucia and Talk 'N Text in their first two games.

"This continues to be a character test for us, because even if we're down, we don't lose focus," he said when the INQUIRER asked him if his team's slow starts do not worry him.

"As long as we keep surviving it in the end, there's nothing scary about it."

Raymundo sliced through a phalanx of defenders twice, scoring each time, to give the Giants an 88-85 lead, before breaking up the next Magnolia play that led to a Peter June Simon layup for a 90-85 cushion heading into the final 1:31.

Rookie guard Chico Lanete played extended minutes and delivered big time, shooting a career-high 16 points that kept the Giants in the game.

Starting quarterback Roger Yap was tossed out because of an unsportsmanlike foul when he hit LA Tenorio in the midsection late in the first half, forcing Gregorio to go with Lanete the rest of the way.

Magnolia, after closing out the half with a 13-point advantage, actually reestablished a double digit lead, 80-70, with 7:14 left after Lordy Tugade completed a three-point play off James Yap.

And after Hontiveros gave the Beverage Masters an 83-77 lead with 4:43 left, the Purefoods defense held Magnolia scoreless the next three minutes while dropping nine points for an 86-83 edge with 1:59 to go.

Earlier, Jeffrey Cariaso scored 11 of his 22 points in the fourth period to key a 98-94 Alaska win over Coca-Cola.

The scores:

First Game

ALASKA 98—Cariaso 22, Hugnatan 17, Cortez 16, Miller 11, Thoss 9, Ferriols 8, Laure 6, Dela Cruz 4, Bono 3, Quiñahan 2.

COCA-COLA 94—Peek 20, Arigo 15, Buenafe 14, Telan 13, Enrile 10, Calimag 10, Echavez 5, Misolas 3, Isip 2, Tolomia 2, Duremdes 0.

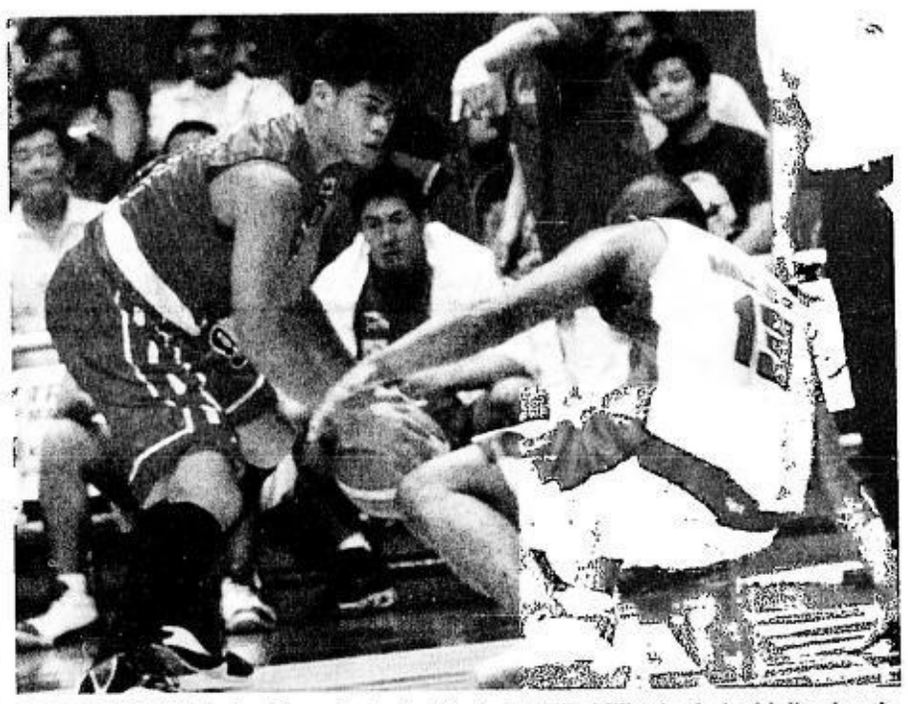
Quarters: 23-all, 51-49, 73-76, 98-94

Second Game

PUREFOODS 93—J. Yap 25, Lanete 16, Simon 13, Raymundo 11, Salvador 10, Pingris 6, Adducul 5, R. Yap 4, Yee 2, Larong 1, Sanz 0, Cablay 0,

MAGNOLIA 90—Tugade 23, Villanueva 16, Seigle 12, Ildefonso 12, Hontiveros 11, Tenorio 6, Racela 6, Wilson 4, Eman 0, Fonacier 0, Calaguio 0.

Quarters: 14-31, 32-45, 66-69, 93-90



COCA-COLA'S Ronjay Buenafe beats Alaska's Willie Miller in their sideline battle for possession in last night's game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Boragay's 4-gold haul bolsters Cavite bid

MICHAELMARS Danila of Naga swims to the 400-IM gold. RAFFY LERMA

By June Navarro

NAGA CITY—JILL BORAGAY'S QUADRUple-gold haul highlighted Cavite's dominance in the Philippine Olympic Festival-Bicol Southern Luzon qualifying games yesterday at the Metro Naga Sports Complex here.

Boragay nailed the gold in the 5,000-meter run in 22 minutes and 25.79 seconds and anchored her province in the 4x400m relay.

Boragay earlier won the 1,500m and 3,000m while copping a bronze in the 800m to become the most bemedalled performer in centerpiece athletics.

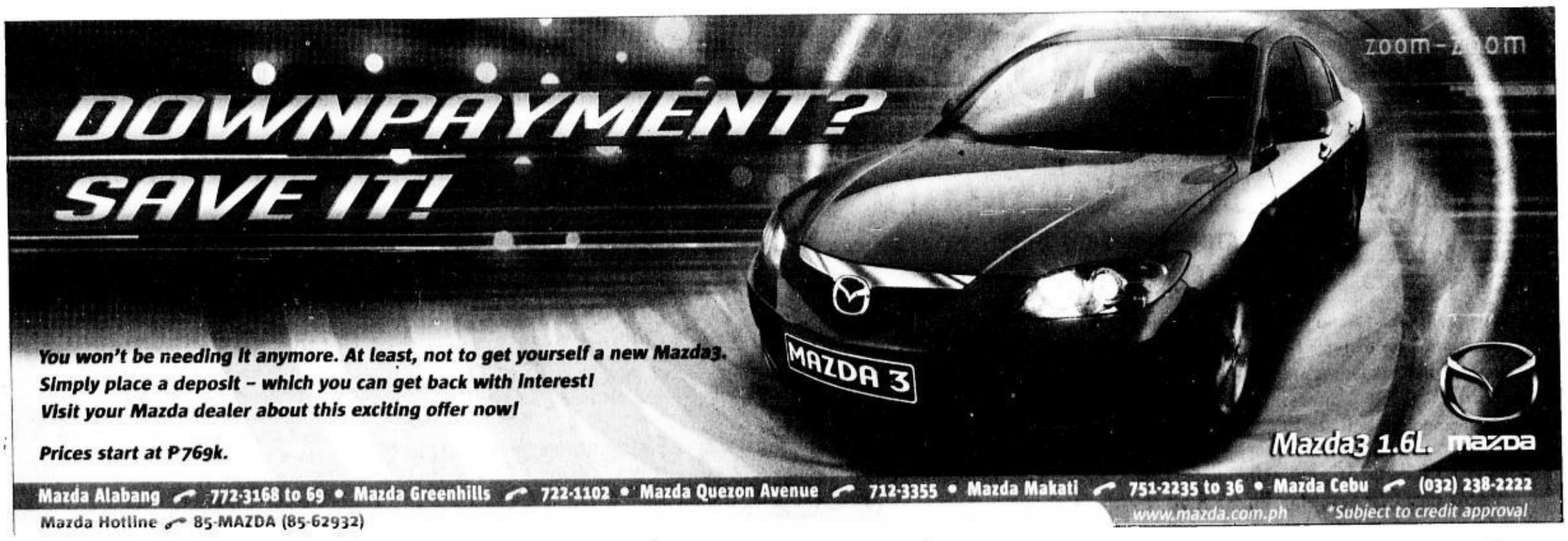
The 16-year-old Boragay bested teammate April Pedrozo (22:29.6) and Camarines Sur's Marilou Javier (22:31.4) in the 1,500m and then teamed up with Wilma De Lara, Vivian Ayat and Catherine Verna Norte in Cavite's 4x400m victory over Camarines Sur.

Cavite clocked four minutes and 18.34 seconds against Cam Sur's 4:24.9 in the 4x400m to raise its medal haul to 29 golds, 17 silvers and 15 bronzes.

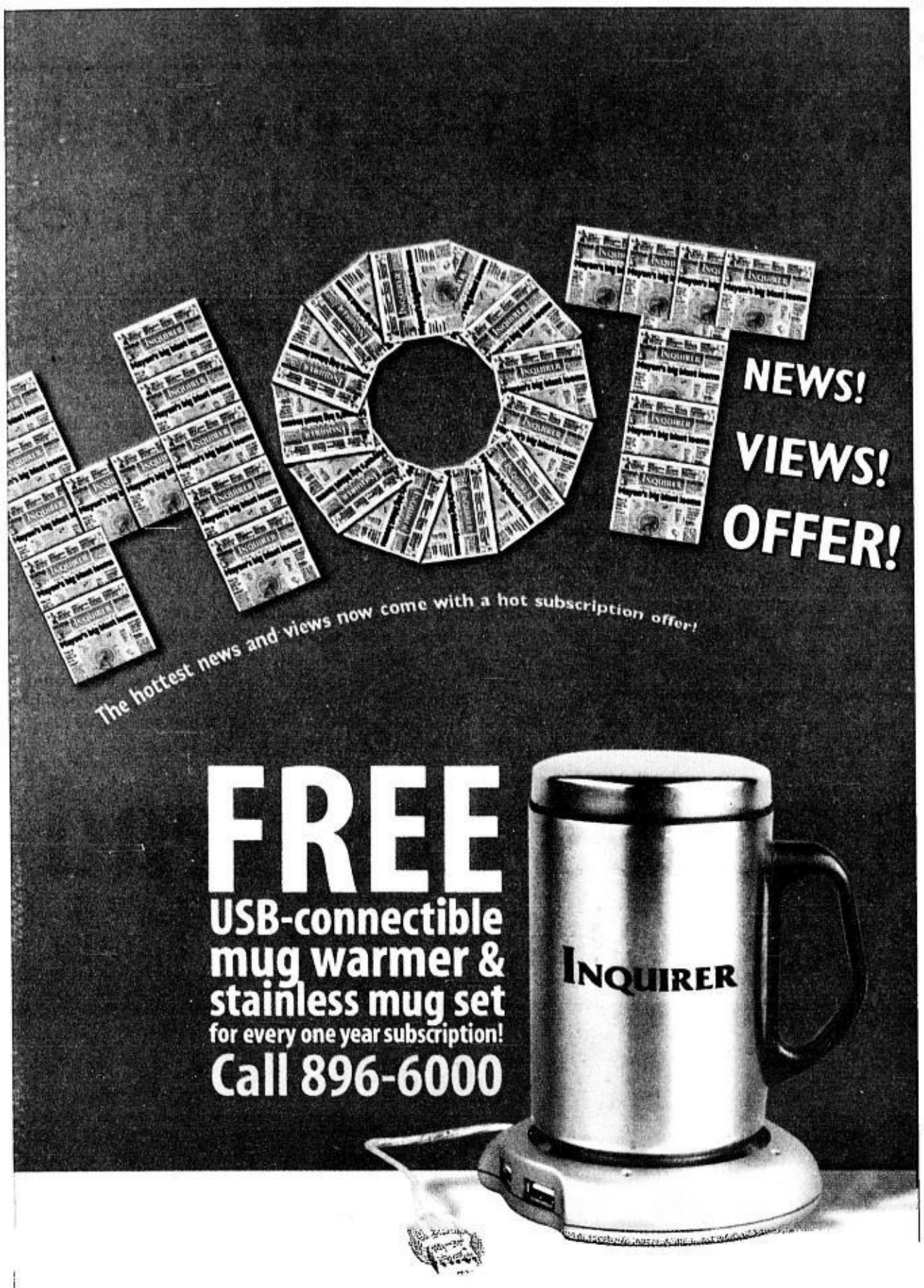
"I never expected to win as many as four gold medals. It's a blessing," said Boragay.

Host Naga City barged into the medal standing with two gold medals in the pool through the efforts of Nelson Henry Mejia and Michaelmars Andrey Danila, younger brother of former RP team mainstay Lizza Danila.

Mejia topped the boys' 13-14 100m backstroke in 1:10.76 over Desamero (1:11.35) while Danila won the boys' 15-and-over 100m freestyle (55.28 seconds) to beat teammate John Zapanta (56.58).



Park, Godio wrap it up



Korean repeats, Vinice wins at last in club champs tilt

By Jong Arcano, *Inquirer Golf editor*

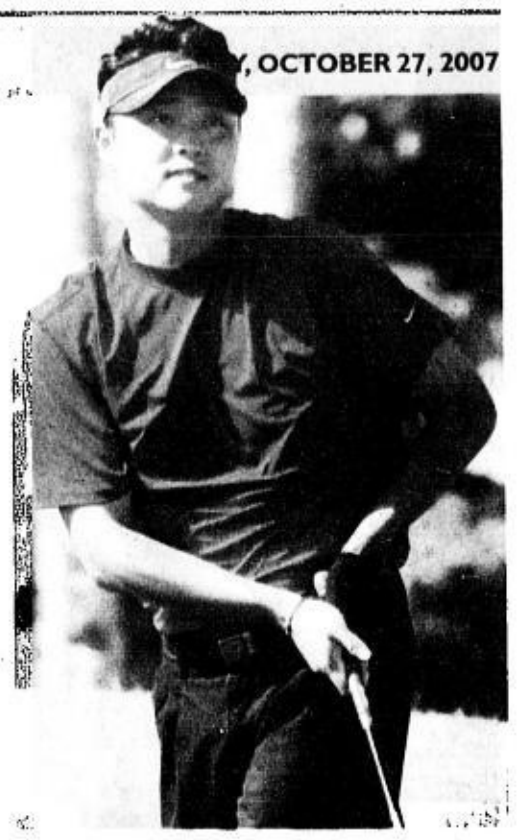
GEN. TRIAS, CAVITE—PARK JUNG-SOO pulled off an impressive repeat in the men's division, Vinice Godio finally nailed it on her third try in the ladies side and Ed Rendon became the first-ever seniors champion in the National Tournament of Club Champions presented by HSBC and INQUIRER GOLF here yesterday.

Park, the 27-year-old Eastridge bet, pulled away early with four birdies in the front nine en route to a 4-and-3 victory over Marty Ilagan of Manila Southwoods in a final that showcased brilliant shotmaking.

Godio, carrying the colors of Sta. Elena and Alabang, took five holes in a six-hole stretch from the sixth and went on to dispatch Lyn Mangulabnan of Royal Northwoods, 5 and 4, on the final day of the tourney backed by Toyota as major sponsor and Callaway, Pocari Sweat, Titleist and Coca-Cola as hole sponsors.

Victory was sweet for Godio who was a losing semifinalist in 2005 and reached the finals last year.

Rendon crowned himself the first seniors winner when the Forest Hills bet turned back Andy Vasquez of Wack Wack in a clash between old friends who played friendly rounds at Veterans with the Dugong Bughaw group.



VICTOR, VICTOR: Unbeatable Park Jung-soo

Koo Jae-min of Eagle Ridge and Crystal Superal of Orchard completed the batch of 2007 winners by topping the special divisions.

Koo beat Crystal's younger brother, former world jungolf champ Wolen, 2 and 1, while Crystal eked out a 3 and 2 win over young Katya dela Cruz of Wack Wack.

For topping their divisions, Park, Godio and Rendon won all-expense-paid trips to Singapore as VIPs in the inaugural HSBC Women's Champions in March next year.

Koo and Superal won a trip to any local destination of their choice.

Tournament director Buddy Resurreccion said the NTCC is bound to grow bigger in the coming years with clubs from all over the country now realizing its prestige.

Twenty six clubs competed for this year's five titles and at least five more clubs tried but failed to make the deadline for filing of entries.

Lighting halts Juvic's run

JAKARTA—JUVIC PAgunsan's pursuit of the pacesetters got stalled by lightning Friday in the Petamina Indonesia President Invitational at the Damai Indah Golf-BSD course.

PAGUNSAN

Sustaining his blazing opening round of 66, Pagunsan finished his first nine holes at 3-under-par 33 and stood just three strokes off clubhouse leaders Lu Wei-chih of Chinese Taipei, Anthony Kang of the United States and Neven Basic of Australia halfway through the $350,000 Asian Tour event.

Lu fired a course-record tying 10-under-par 62 to join Kang, who fired a 65, and Basic, who carded a 67, at the helm with 132 totals.

India's Digvijay Singh was a stroke behind at 133 following a 66.

If Pagunsan sustains his form, spiked by birdies on the 10th, 14th and 19th holes, the Filipino is likely to dislodge Singh or even catch up with the co-leaders.

Play was suspended for one and a half hours due to lightning with Jerome Delariarte, who had a 71 Thursday, also doing well at two under after nine holes. *Asian Tour News*

Tuguegarao Milo 21K tomorrow

ABOUT 4,000 RUNNERS ARE EXPECTED to answer the starting gun in tomorrow's qualifying race of the 31st National Milo Marathon in Tuguegarao City.

The bulk of the participants is vying in the 5K fun run and the 3K kiddies race.

As in past elimination races, the top three finishers in the men's and women's 21K events will advance to the 42.195-kilometer grand finals set Nov. 18 in Manila.

The marathon is held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas and the Department of Tourism.

The top three winners will also receive cash prizes and trophies, with the champions pocketing P10,000 each, the second placers P6,000 and third placers P4,000.

National organizer Rudy Biscocho said runners must wear their race jerseys for security purposes and be at the starting line by 5 a.m.

BF Resort tops golf I-Village South

BF RESORT, DRAWING 39 POINTS FROM four players, topped the South qualifying Tuesday at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club to lead three more squads to the grand finals of the MyPhone Presents The 16th Intervillage Golf Tournament.

Art Ampaya, Jojo Bondoc, Louie Bustamante and Ed Cabrera all carded 39 to anchor BF Resort's 305 points Tuesday. The other scorers were Rupert Bayocot 38, Joey Lalisan 38, Romy Gervacio 37 and Zardi Abellera 36.

BF Resort assembled a two-round total of 617 points, 12 points ahead of Hillsborough which drew 40 points from Edward Puno.

Better Living-Don Bosco-Levitown took the final spot by posting 302 points for 602.

Other scorers for Hillsborough were Joseph Barril 39, Erich Lingad 39, Ramon Nolasco 39, Francisco Rodrigo 39, Roderick Gamboa 38, Leo Ortiz 35 and Danilo Olanosa 34.

BLDBL was led by Manny Agdon Jr. 39, Tristan Ampil 39, Joey Anciano 39, Carlito Chua 39, Edgar Barroga 38, Renie Floro 37, Joel Altea IV 36 and Joseph Sison 35.

Organizers decided to add a wild-card entry, bringing to six the number of teams seeing action in the finals on Nov. 13 at Summit Point.

Fourth placer Tahanan made it to the finals.

210 golfers vie in Forest Hills tilt

ANTIPOLO—A FULL FIELD OF 210 member-players and their guests compete for honors and top prizes today in the 2007 Chairman's Cup of Forest Hills presented by Hyundai.

Two Hyundai Tucson SUVs are at stake for aces on two relatively easy holes, with four other par-3s at the picturesque course carrying attractive hole-in-one prizes.

A Hyundai Getz will also be raffled off during the awards ceremonies of one of the biggest club championships in the country.

The holes where the Tucsons will be staked do not measure more than 180 yards, and Forest Hills general manager Romeo Carlos said that the other par-3s will carry prizes ranging from P100,000 to P250,000 cash.

"We want our players to drive home those SUVs," Carlos said. "The turnout for this event has been phenomenal and I apologize to guests who we were not able to accommodate."

World Poker comes off wraps

THE WORLD POKER CHAMPIONSHIP GETS under way today at the Airport Casino Filipino in Parañaque City with Pacific Poker Palace staging the event that offers a minimum prize pot of $25,000. Ben Dela Cruz of PPP, which is holding the event without an overseas partner group, said the No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament has drawn a high-powered international cast. Buy-in is US$500. PPP is jointly staging the championship with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor). For inquiries, call 0917-8603829 or 0916-4177780.

5-stag derby gets going at SJC

SLAMBANG DUELS AMONG BIGTIME COCKers take center stage today at San Juan Coliseum via the Jade Resort 5-Stag Derby. More than 80 fights are on tap with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Host Arman Santos said his fellow members from the National Cockers Association (NCA) and Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA), plus selected members from the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) are entered in the derby.

SPORTSWATCH

120 fights in 'Bakbakan' today

COCKFIGHT CHAMPIONS FROM THE PROVinces collide starting at 11 a.m. today in the National Bakbakan 10-Stag Derby at the Pasig Square Garden. More than 120 fights have been rostered for today's 3-stag elimination round. Seeing action are members of Rizal GBA and United Bulacan GBA plus guest participants from other groups affiliated with the NFGB.

Manalo rips 'Pacquiao' billiards foe

MARLON MANALO, BREAKING GOOD AND pocketing even better, routed Karl Boyles of the United Kingdom, 9-1, yesterday in the Manny Pacquiao International 9-Ball Open at the Hobbies Mall Billiards Hall.

Boyles avoided a shutout with a win on the seventh frame as Manalo miscalculated his preparation on the green six.

Equally impressive was Filipino-Japanese teener Mike Takayama, who stunned reigning world champion Ronnie Alcano, 9-7.

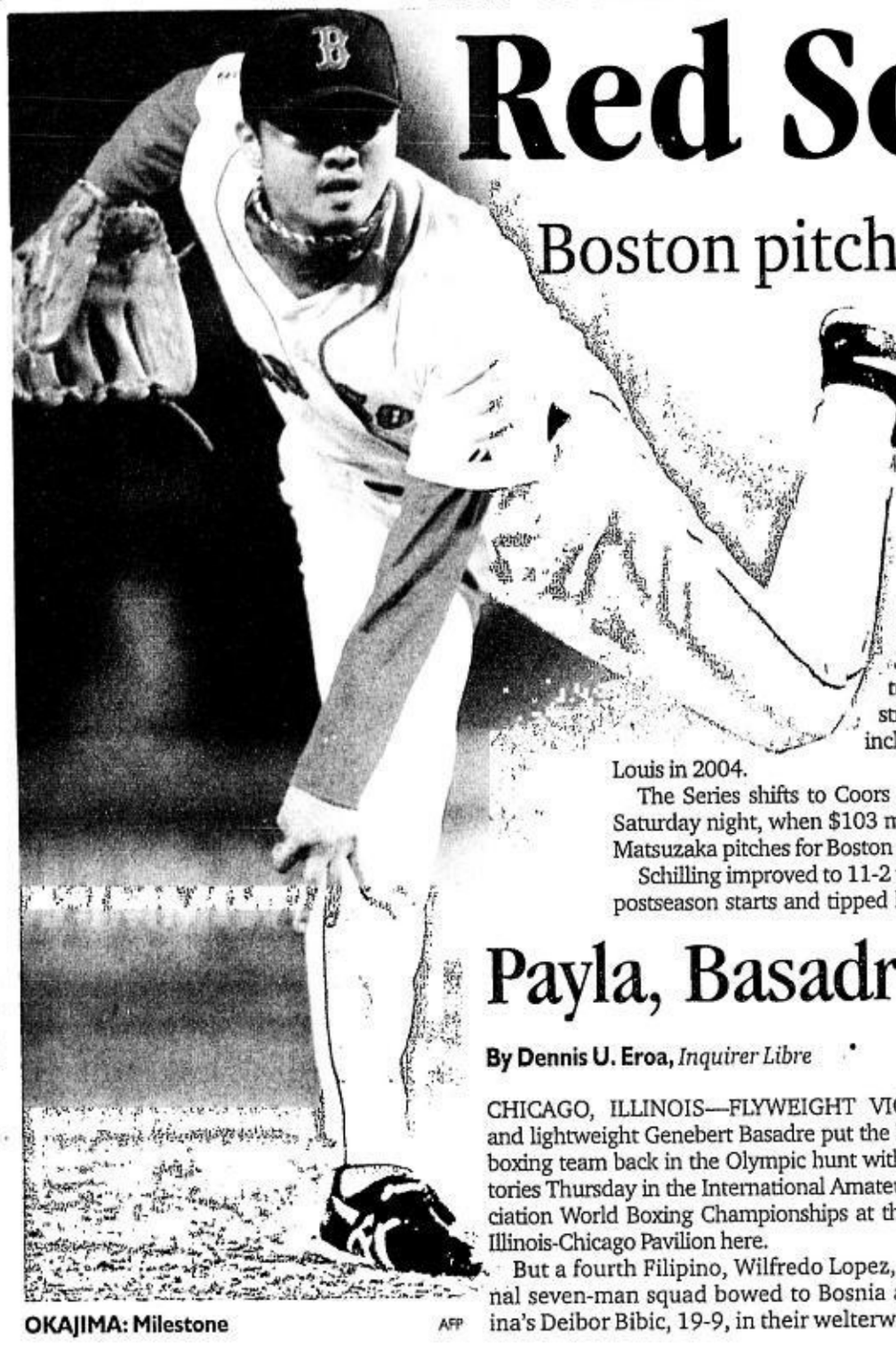
Manalo, one of the country's representatives to the Kabayan World 9-Ball Challenge: Philippines vs Rest of the World on Nov. 12-13 in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, will next face former world champion Mika Immonen of Finland, 9-6 winner over Jomar De Ocampo.

Orcollo downed Roel Esquillo, 9-5; Chamat toppled Romeo Silvano, 9-3; Cuna trounced Gandy Valle, 9-6; Sultan beat Jong-Jong Pangan, 9-5; Petiza topped Rodrigo Geronimo, 9-7; De Luna thwarted Joven Bustamante, 9-6; and Feliciano turned back Jay-Jay Millares, 9-6.

Pool maestro Efren "Bata" Reyes, meanwhile, stayed alive with a 9-2 win over Gil Nakamura, 9-2, on the loser's bracket. Reyes got sidetracked by Jong-Jong Pangan, 9-8, on Thursday. ***Marlon Bernardino, Contributor***

Red Sox up, 2-0

Boston pitchers thwart Rockies again



OKAJIMA: Milestone AFP

BOSTON—CURT SCHILLING PITCHED THE Boston Red Sox to a 2-1 victory Thursday night and a 2-0 lead in the World Series over the stagnant Colorado Rockies.

Mike Lowell hit a tiebreaking double in the fifth and the Red Sox got 3 2/3 innings of shutout relief from Hideki Okajima and Jonathan Papelbon to win their sixth straight Series game, including a sweep of St. Louis in 2004.

The Series shifts to Coors Field for Game 3 on Saturday night, when $103 million rookie Daisuke Matsuzaka pitches for Boston against Josh Fogg.

Schilling improved to 11-2 with a 2.23 ERA in 19 postseason starts and tipped his cap to the pulsing crowd as he walked off the mound—perhaps for the final time in a Red Sox uniform.

Schilling held punchless Colorado in check for 5 1/3 innings and became the second 40-year-old starter to win a World Series game. Detroit's Kenny Rogers did it last year against the Cardinals.

Okajima, who achieved a milestone by becoming the first Japanese to take the mound in a World Series, entered with two on in the sixth and Boston up, 2-1. He retired Garrett Atkins on a grounder and struck out Brad Hawpe to end the threat.

The rookie from Japan fanned three straight before he was pulled for Papelbon in the eighth.

With two outs in the fifth, Ortiz walked and Manny Ramirez singled before Lowell pulled a 2-1 pitch from Ubaldo Jimenez down the left-field line for a 2-1 Red Sox lead. *AP*

Payla, Basadre break ice for RP pugs

By Dennis U. Eroa, *Inquirer Libre*

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—FLYWEIGHT VIOLITO PAYLA and lightweight Genebert Basadre put the RP-PLDT-Smart boxing team back in the Olympic hunt with smashing victories Thursday in the International Amateur Boxing Association World Boxing Championships at the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion here.

But a fourth Filipino, Wilfredo Lopez, from an original seven-man squad bowed to Bosnia and Herzegovina's Deibor Bibic, 19-9, in their welterweight match.

Payla battered Andrew Selby of Wales via a referee-stopped-contest-outscored verdict in the third round, with the score pegged at 24-4.

Basadre prolonged Filipino joy when he outboxed Bulgarian power-puncher Ognyan Kolev, 19-13.

The twin wins injected fresh hopes into the national team which performed dismally in the first two days following the defeats of bantam Joan Tipon, light-welter Delfin Boholst and featherweight Charly Suarez.

To make it to Beijing, Payla and Basadre need to win two more bouts and enter the quarterfinals.

Brawl mars Unigames men's caging

By Cedelf P. Tupas, *Inquirer Visayas*

BACOLOD CITY—ATENEO DE MANILA and Far Eastern University lined themselves up for a possible championship showdown yesterday following lopsided quarterfinal victories in men's basketball at the 12th Philippine University Games here.

The Blue Eagles dumped Ateneo de Davao, 90-59, while the Tamaraws drubbed Colegio San Agustin-Bacolod, 99-55, at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum.

But their victories were overshadowed by a brawl that broke out during West Negros College's 59-55 win over St. Francis of Assisi College at the Natalio Velez Gym in Silay City. The match was abandoned with 18 seconds left.

Game officials pointed to WNC power forward Jason Mellarin, a former St. Francis player, as the instigator of the melee, although he admitted being peeved by St. Francis' Michael Rabor's physical play.

The fighting left St. Francis' John Dulawan with a nasty cut on his right ear that needed nine stitches to close and West Negros' Robert Lauron with a busted lip.

In the aftermath of the brawl, four WNC players were suspended and will miss the game against the Tamaraws for a place in the finals at 11 a.m. today.

The Blue Eagles, meanwhile, battle Angeles University Foundation, which prevailed over University of San Carlos, 78-77.

FEU ruled men's athletics late Thursday with 14 golds to hike its title haul to three, after wins in men's taekwondo and chess.

Sto. Tomas retained the women's title with seven golds, including two from sprint and long jump champion Luville Dato-on.

Also keeping their crowns were San Beda and La Salle, which ruled men and women's swimming, respectively.

Philippine Christian University and College of St. Benilde won the men and women's table tennis crown all at the expense of FEU teams, while Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology brought home the sepak takraw title.

Bayron bags third place

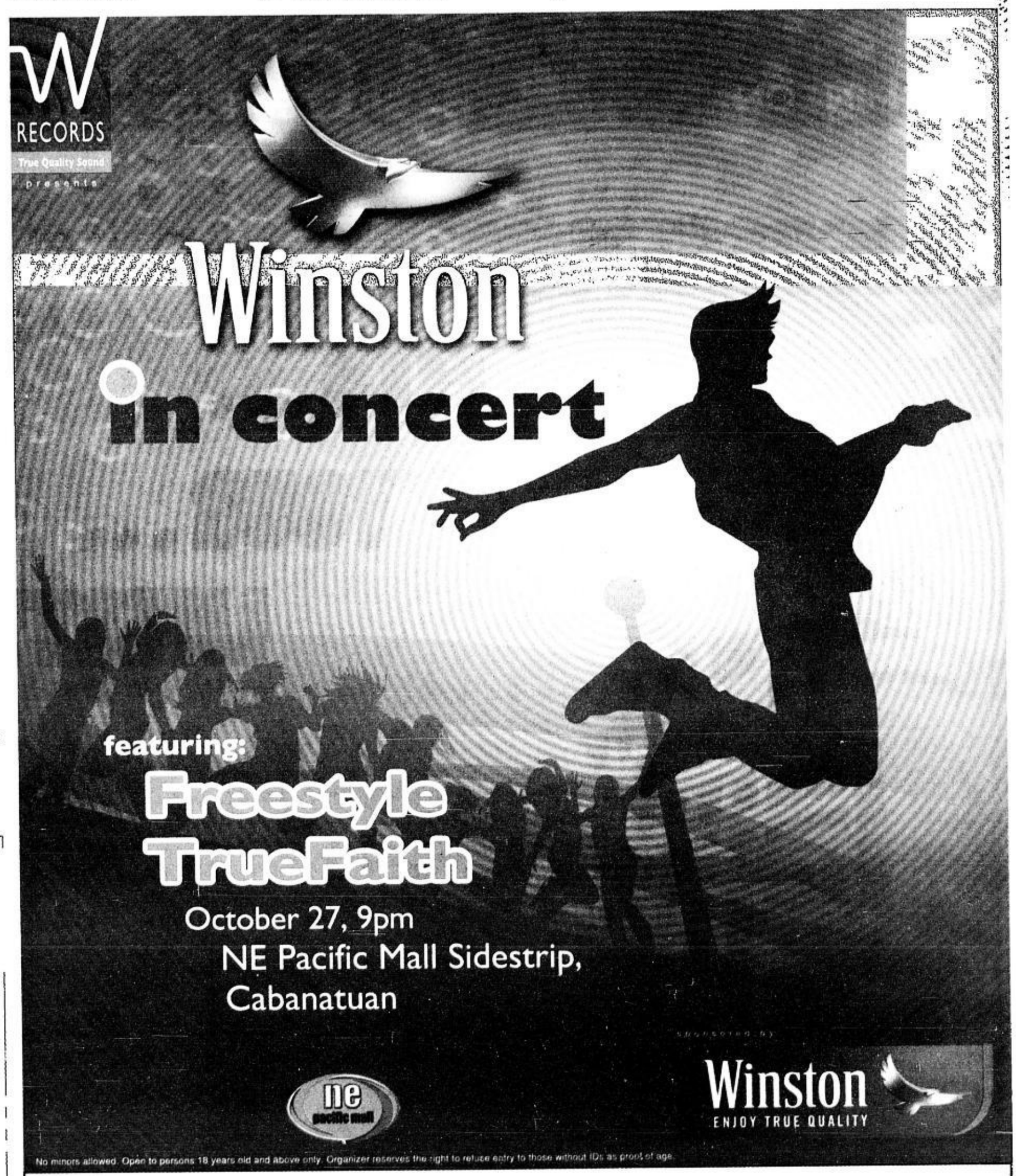
SINGAPORE—RUFINO BAYRON BIRDied two of the last five holes to card a two-under-par 69 Friday and settle for third place in the Singapore Open Amateur Championship won by Australian Tim Stewart in runaway fashion at the Singapore Island Country Club's Bukit Course.

Bayron, tied with Thai Kiradech Aphibarnrat in second place overnight, five behind Stewart, picked up three birdies against as many bogeys in the first 13 holes. But he knocked in a five-foot birdie on the 14th, then birdied the par-5 18th from six feet for nines of 35-34.

That capped Bayron's big show in what was only his second international stint. He had earlier rounds of 71, 70 and 69.

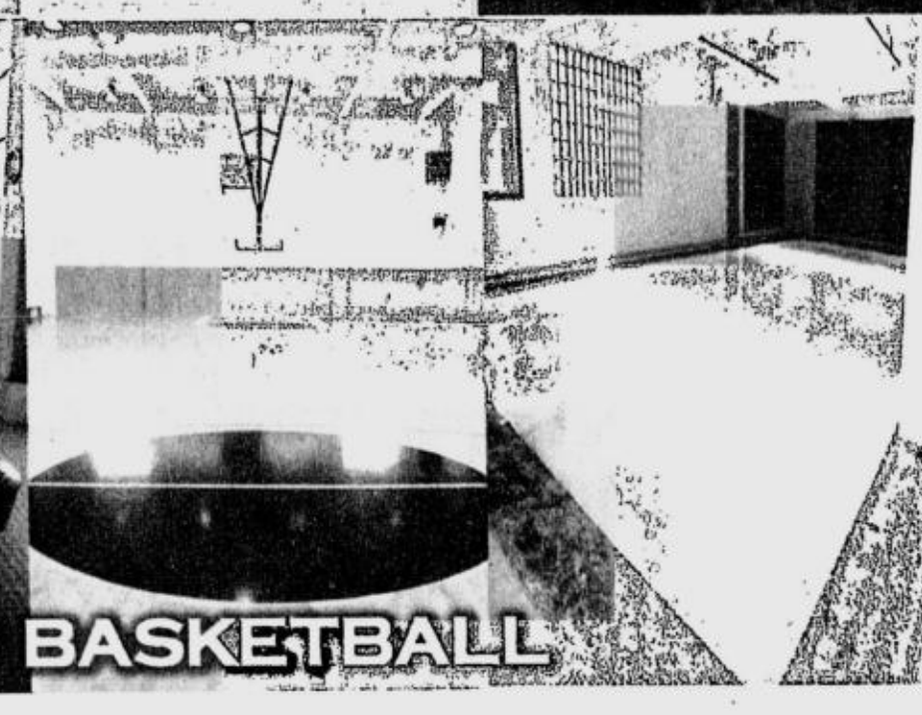
The 26-year-old Bayron wound up six shots behind Stewart and two off Aphibarnrat's 277.

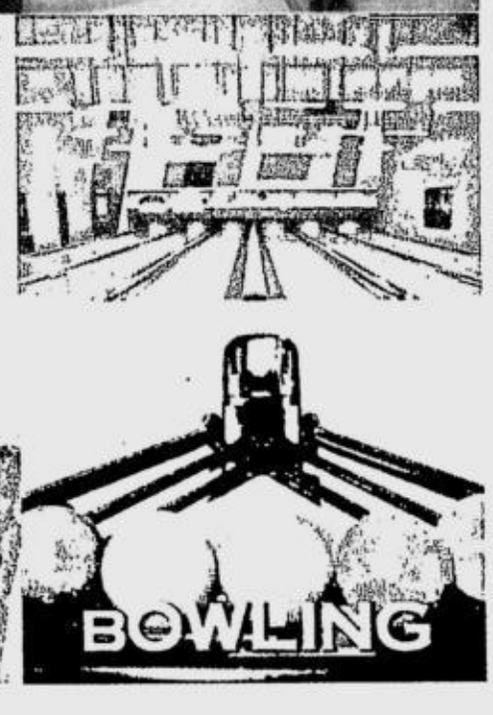
Reigning national champion Anthony Fernando shot a 71 for the third straight day, finishing tied for fourth with ICTSI teammate Ferdie Aunzo (72) and Taiwanese Chiang Chen-chih (68) at 283.



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

SURESHOT SPORTS world





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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2007

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Governance, energy top PCCI wish list

Time to move forward, focus on economic reforms

By Daxim L. Lucas

A PRO-ADMINISTRATION UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION of the country's small- and mid-sized companies yesterday called on the government to address key concerns of the business sector crucial to improving competitiveness.

In a 16-point resolution, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) highlighted its most pressing concerns, led by the high cost of energy, trade issues and the promotion of tourism.

The resolutions were presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo on the final day of the 33rd Philippine Business Conference and Expo in Manila.

Topping the list of resolutions was one on governance calling "for national unity and sobriety and for all leaders of the country, both in government and private sector enterprises, to move

GOVERNANCE/ B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱44.06 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 26, 2007

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Gov't posts 17% drop in spending /B3

BCDA to bid out 'primest' lot in Boni

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES CONversion Development Authority announced it was auctioning off on Nov. 5 its "primest" property in Fort Bonifacio as 10 top real estate players firm up their interest in the 1.2-hectare land.

BCDA said the lot, known as the site for the Government Center for Investments, was expected to yield at least P1.9 billion for government coffers as it was worth at least P160,000 per square meter.

BCDA vice president Aileen Zosa said eight companies attended the final pre-bid conference held last week: Ascendas, Filinvest Land, IPM Realty Corp., Landco Pacific, ML&H Corp., Net-Trump Group, Philtown Inc. and Robinsons Land.

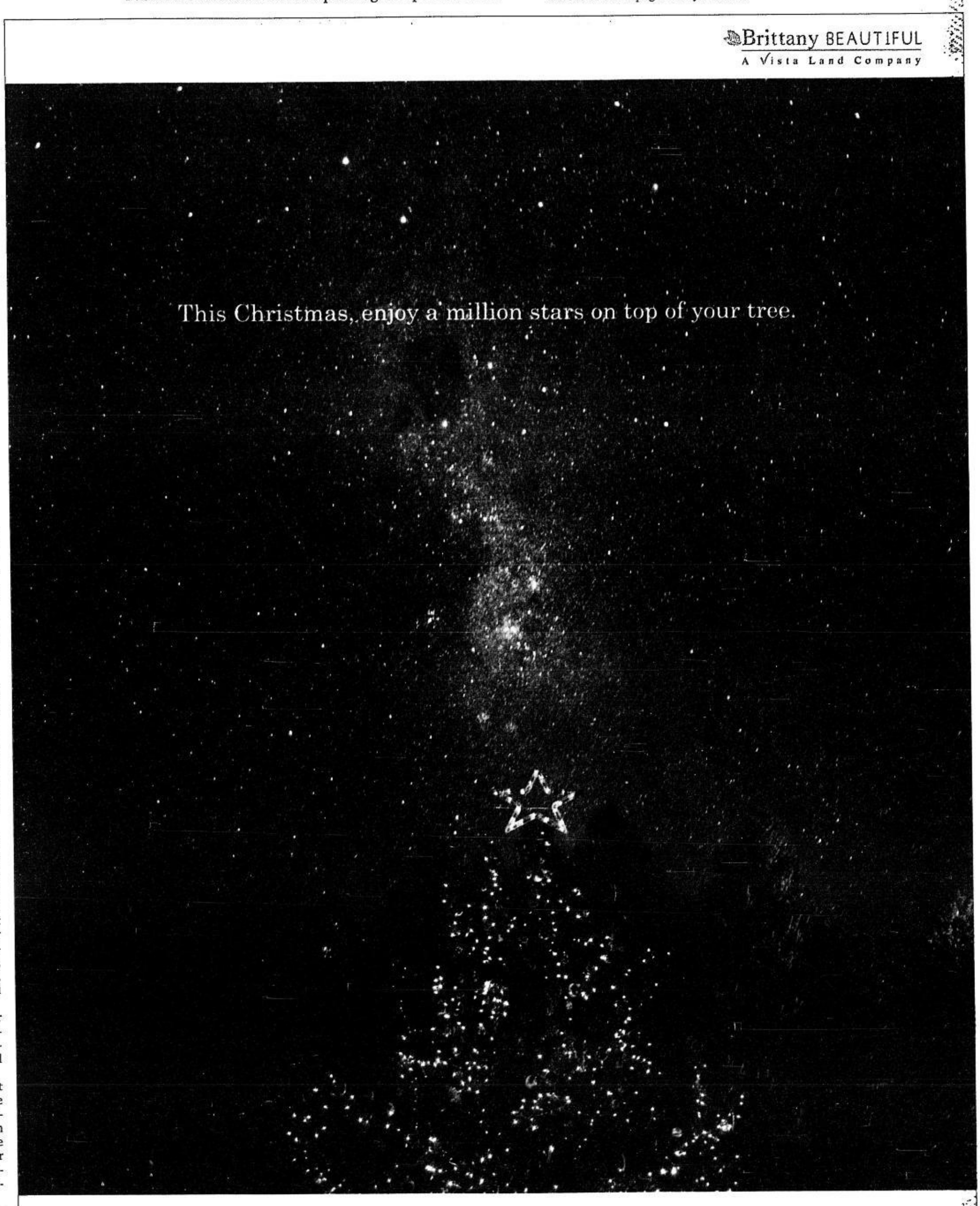
Zosa said two other firms submitted letters of interest—Ayala Land Inc. and Century Properties.

She added that the deadline for the submission of proposals was set on Nov. 5 and that the winning bidder would be determined by early December.

Zosa said the proposals to be submitted would include a development plan indicating the proposed land uses and corresponding gross floor areas for each use, conceptual design, features and amenities timetable for development.

She said the proposed development of the property was medium- to high-density mixed-use

BCDA/ B2



SM property unit posts 34% jump in net profit

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SM DEVELOPMENT CORP. (SMDC), the residential development arm of mall tycoon Henry Sy, reported a 34-percent jump in net income to P791.8 million in the first nine months, helped by brisk condominium sales but tempered by the effects of the US subprime mortgage crisis.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange yesterday, SMDC said real estate sales during the January to September period grew three-fold to P1.29 billion from last year's P308.7 million.

This resulted in a 246.2-percent growth in gross profit from real estate operations to P400.3 million.

SMDC said its net income growth of 34 percent for the period was softened by lower extraordinary gains from marketable securities since the stock market was adversely affected by the subprime issue.

Nevertheless, consolidated revenues increased by 128.5 percent to P1.99 billion.

"Our real estate performance is reflective of how we have worked hard toward establishing SMDC as a strong competitor in the residential development market. We wish to thank our patrons for the confidence they have given us and their trust that we can deliver their homes based on the high standards we promised," SMDC president Roger Cabuñag said in a company disclosure.

The sales performance of SMDC was principally driven by its two ongoing projects—condominium village Chateau Elysee in Bicutan, Parañaque City, and condominium project Mezza Residences in Quezon City.

For the period January-September, Chateau Elysee sold of 512 units, 132.7 percent more than last year's record. Sales reached P699.8 million.

Chateau Elysee is a French Mediterranean-inspired condoville with six clusters. Each cluster comes with one, two or three-bedroom units with floor areas of 20, 40 and 60 square meters. Since its launch, the project has sold 1,118 units. Upon full completion in 2009, the six clusters of Chateau Elysee will have a total of 2,696 units.

Mezza Residences, on the other hand, sold 850 units during the period, or a 22-percent increase over last year's sales. This generated P1.43 billion. As of end September, Mezza was 31.7-percent complete. On full completion, Mezza will have a total of 2,420 units in four 38-story towers connected by a retail podium. It is right across from SM Prime's SM City Sta. Mesa.

Belle net income jumped 20% in 9 months

LEISURE HOMES DEVELOPER BELLE Corp. yesterday reported that its consolidated net income grew 20 percent to P140.3 million in the first nine months from P117 million in the same period last year.

In a report filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, Belle said net revenues from operations—largely from the sale of real estate and club shares—rose 7 percent to P430.1 million from P403.3 million during the same period last year.

Total contract price of all sales and reservations booked during the period more than doubled to P1.1 billion from P499.2 million in the same period last year due to the favorable market reception for Belle's newest upscale residential project, Lakeside Fairways.

The company's gross profit rose 7 percent to P249 million from P231.7 million in the same period last year due to higher revenues. Operating expenses increased slightly by 2 percent to P96 million.

The company also booked net earnings from associated companies worth P50.2 million, slightly higher by 3 percent compared with P48.5 million reported in the same period last year.

The earnings were from Belle's 33-percent-owned affiliate Pacific Online Systems Corp. and its 36-percent-owned property firm Highlands Prime Inc. (HPI)

Pacific Online leases equipment to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office for lottery operations in the Visayas and Mindanao. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

Governance ...

From page B1

forward and focus efforts in instituting key economic reforms for the national interest."

The PCCI also endorsed to Malacañang its "energy roadmap for energy reform," which called for, among others, a review of the so-called performance-based rate and "rectify its inequities."

The group also urged the government to revisit the privatization of National Transmission Co. and ensure the stability of electricity rates in the country.

Other recommendations concerning the energy sector was for the government to "ensure quick reduction in the generation cost component of electricity rates," especially since the country continues to have one of the most expensive power rates in the region.

On the trade and industry side, the business group urged the government to institutionalize the public-private partnership in the crusade against smuggling. Calling itself "the voice of Philippine business," PCCI asked that it be designated as the private sector entity responsible for processing and accrediting importers in close coordination with the Bureau of Customs.

The PCCI also backed the ratification of the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) "as a means to open up market access opportunities for Philippine exports."

Jpepa, the group said, would help create as many as 200,000 new jobs in the agriculture, industrial and service sectors.

One of the more controversial stands of the group was the resolution supporting the implementation of Executive Order 500-B or the "pocket open skies policy" meant to open up the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Pampanga province to unrestricted use by budget airlines.

Such a move would boost tourism opportunities for the country, the PCCI said.

The PCCI also urged Malacañang to act on issues concerning the agriculture sector, the environment, education and competitiveness.

Stock prices close 0.5% higher in light trade

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.5 percent higher yesterday in cautious trade ahead of next week's three-day holiday, dealers said.

Philippine markets will be closed on Monday for barangay elections nationwide. Trading will resume on Tuesday and Wednesday, but the market will be closed again on Thursday and Friday for two religious holidays.

The composite index ended up 17.10 points at 3,784.88 after moving between 3,769.31 and 3,787.24.

The all-share index advanced 8.20 points to 2,348.53.

There were 69 advancers and 44 decliners, while 55 stocks were steady.

A total of 3.7 billion shares worth P4.6 billion changed hands.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision Thursday to pardon former leader Joseph Estrada, who was convicted of corruption six weeks ago, earned cheers and jeers, but most investors took on a wait-and-see stance.

"Investors are still gauging the nation's sentiment following the presidential pardon for Estrada," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

"Hopefully the decision will not erase gains in the economy and affect investor confidence," he added.

Despite continued economic growth under her leadership, Ms Arroyo remains deeply unpopular as allegations of corruption and human rights violations hound her administration.

"While (the Estrada pardon) will always remain an emotional issue for some, we believe that the market as a whole will treat it as it has treated recent political issues—with indifference," said Francisco Liboro of PCCI Securities.

"We see investors sticking to the main issues of corporate earnings and economic growth," he added.

Among Friday's big gainers was Philex Mining, the country's biggest miner. The stock jumped 50 centavos to a record P9.80 amid surging gold prices.

Oil firm Petron, with the price of crude touching a new all-time high, advanced 30 centavos to P6.70. *AFP*

BCDA to bid out ...

From page B1

development, such as commercial, residential, recreational and institutional uses.

"We are expecting high-end and high-grade vertical structures to be built on the property," Zosa added. "One of the proponents has already conducted soil tests and site assessment on the property."

Zosa noted that developers could avail themselves of incentives from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority provided that Peza qualifies the project for perks since the lot is located in E-square, which was declared a special economic zone.

BCDA president Narciso Abaya had said the bidding would not only generate revenues for BCDA projects but was also expected "to further maximize values of the whole Bonifacio Global City."

This would be the second bidding for the property as the first held in the third quarter of 2006 failed because the transfer of the land title was not allowed as it was under a mortgage.

BCDA has mortgaged the property with Banco de Oro to secure a standby facility in anticipation of a shortfall of funds for its Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway project.

Zosa said in an interview last August that BCDA had secured a P1-billion loan from BDO, which would partially cover a P6-billion project for SCTEX.

For the second bidding, BCDA now requires bidders to include in their proposals a way through which the mortgage's limitation of title transfer may be resolved.

CURRENCIES

October 26, 2007

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.698275	1.000000	44.0610
Japan	Yen	0.006118	0.008762	0.3861
United Kingdom	Pound	1.432651	2.051700	90.4000
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.090096	0.129027	5.6851
Switzerland	Franc	0.598864	0.857633	37.7882
Canada	Dollar	0.722702	1.034982	45.6023
Singapore	Dollar	0.479552	0.686766	30.2596
Australia	Dollar	0.633012	0.906536	39.9429
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.852631	2.653153	116.9006
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.186629	0.267272	11.7763
Brunei	Dollar	0.477911	0.684416	30.1561
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000076	0.000109	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.022203	0.031797	1.4010
UAE	Dirham	0.190168	0.272339	11.9995
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.432100	63.0998
Korea	Won	0.000762	0.001091	0.0481
China	Yuan**	0.093327	0.133654	5.8889
Denmark	Kroner	0.134185	0.192167	8.4671
India	Rupee	0.017745	0.025413	1.1197
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.208223	0.298196	13.1388
New Zealand	Dollar	0.531089	0.760572	33.5116
Sweden	Kroner	0.108642	0.155586	6.8553
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021496	0.030784	1.3564

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time Oct. 25, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted on Reuters' Screen ** Asian interbank closing rate as of Oct. 25, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 26, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS							
17.5	6.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	10,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc..	63	63	62	62	985,000
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	69	70	69	70	1,713,500
748	536	China Banking Corp.	715	720	715	720	1,470
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
75.5	44	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	61.5	62.5	61.5	61.5	2,181,200
65.5	34.5	Philippine National Bank	49.5	49.5	48.5	48.5	111,800
68	42	Philippine Savings Bank	61	61	61	61	1,500
72	40	Philippine Bank of Communications	55	55	55	55	500
39.57	16.52	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	28	28	27	27	1,483,600
90	58.5	Security Bank Corp.	76	76	76	76	102,800
66	44.51	Union Bank of the Philippines	50	50.5	50	50	576,900
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS							
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.1	4.1	4	4	280,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc..	1.98	2.04	1.98	2.04	5,346,000
16.25	4.35	CitisecOnline.com Inc..	13.5	14.25	13.5	14.25	2,902,400
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	300,000
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	600
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc..	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	2,342,000
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.55	3.55	3.4	3.45	11,044,000
3.1	1.1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc..	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	10,000
1,160.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,110.00	1,160.00	1,110.00	1,150.00	25,010
2,355.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc	2,340.00	2,345.00	2,340.00	2,345.00	620
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.56	953,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER							
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.2	3,895,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	63	63	60.5	60.5	2,547,400
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	85	86	85	85.5	952,700
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc..	16.75	16.75	16.25	16.25	6,781,100
105.45	23.18	Manila Electric Co.	83	83.5	82	82	896,900
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.5	9,204,000
6.8	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.7	10,862,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc..	8	8.3	7.9	8.1	438,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	90,000
2.3	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp	1.64	2.3	1.64	2.2	62,093,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO							
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	94,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc..	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.84	277,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	52	52	51.5	52	645,300
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.72	0.75	0.72	0.75	200,000
3.8	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.75	179,000
80	58	San Miguel Corp. "A"	58.5	59.5	58.5	59	57,200
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	61.5	62	61	62	65,600
0.66	0.31	Swift Foods Inc..	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
6.5	2.12	Tanduay Holdings Inc..	5.7	6	5.7	6	25,000
22	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	14.25	14.25	14	14.25	12,003,400
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES							
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	160,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc..	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	459,000
2	0.48	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.1	2,845,000
CHEMICALS							
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.5	4.55	4.5	4.55	1,196,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS							
7.4	5.1	Panasonic Manufacturing Phils. Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	2,000
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	4,820,000
HOLDING FIRMS							
3.9	2.55	A. Soriano Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	54,000
0.17	0.043	AJO.net Holdings Inc..	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	11,010,000
1.28	0.235	APC Group Inc..	0.72	0.74	0.72	0.73	4,980,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc.. "A"	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.85	150,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc.. "B"	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	31,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc.. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	62,000,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc..	7.1	7.1	7	7	1,245,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	197,300,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc..	5.5	5.6	5.3	5.5	4,371,000
1.38	0.54	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc..	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	100,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.34	2.4	2.34	2.38	2,301,000
615	397.92	Ayala Corp.	600	615	600	615	468,920
15.25	7.39	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc..	13.5	14.75	13.5	14.75	99,600
5.8	1.42	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.4	4.45	1,493,000
10.25	4.7	DMCI Holdings Inc..	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	1,043,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc..	4.3	4.35	4.2	4.2	42,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.8	5,000
3.55	1.54	House of Investments Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	199,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc..	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	36,600
0.95	0.28	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.58	110,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.9	7.2	6.9	7	3,477,000
8.5	2.9	PAL Holdings Inc.	7	7	6.7	6.7	319,000
0.28	0.013	Pacifica Inc.. "A"	0.22	0.225	0.21	0.21	87,240,000
1.54	0.72	Prime Media Holdings Inc..	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	100,000
0.75	0.185	Prime Orion Philippines Inc..	0.47	0.49	0.47	0.49	1,710,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	7,000
452.5	263.74	SM Investments Corp.	375	377.5	375	375	365,480
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.5	449,000
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	12,270,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc..	1.5	2	1.5	1.8	4,815,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18	18	18	3,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	19,440,000
PROPERTY							
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc..	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	260,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.6	25,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc..	0.68	0.68	0.65	0.65	530,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc..	16.25	16.5	16	16.25	15,014,300
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	697,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	920,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc..	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	4,220,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc..	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	23,700,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc..	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.1	4,938,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc..	1.82	1.84	1.76	1.76	27,990,000
0.5	0.12	Gotesco Land Inc.. "B"	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc..	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.61	300,000
4.6	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.35	4.4	4.25	4.25	70,454,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.85	188,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.32	0.33	13,960,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.51	2,780,000
23	14.25	Robinson Land Corp.	20	20.5	20	20.25	21,700
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.15	4.3	4.05	4.3	1,075,000
13.5	7.12	SM Prime Holdings Inc..	11.75	12.25	11.75	12	8,428,500
3.25	1.22	Shang Properties Inc..	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	255,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc..	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.63	720,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc..	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	3,152,000
MEDIA							
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32.5	34.5	32.5	34.5	308,400
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc..	8.5	9	8.5	8.9	745,000
1.14	0.9	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	60,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS							
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc..	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	183,000
1,745.00	1,110.00	Globe Telecom Inc..	1,725.00	1,730.00	1,715.00	1,720.00	62,320
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,075.00	3,075.00	3,060.00	3,070.00	221,880
8.1	4.95	Pilipino Telephone Corp	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	1,374,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY							
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc..	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	8,670,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc..	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.6	98,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.8	9.1	8.7	9.1	2,363,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.042	35,500,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc.. "A"	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	3,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc..	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	1,000
0.32	0.044	Island Information and Technology Inc..	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.19	4,860,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	47,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc..	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.055	14,400,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc	3	3.05	3	3	4,118,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES							
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	106,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc..	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.1	57,000
42.5	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc	40.5	41	40	41	2,564,100
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	41,000
HOTEL & LEISURE							
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	35,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc..	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	10,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc..	3.55	3.6	3.4	3.4	29,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc..	0.63	0.67	0.63	0.67	4,030,000
1.2	0.5	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.8	2,200,000
EDUCATION							
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	48,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	1,315,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES							
41	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc	25.5	26	25.5	25.5	2,000
6	1.96	Macroasia Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	42,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	18,000
30	10.5	Paxys Inc..	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	1,003,600
MINING							
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	215,500,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc.. "A"	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	965,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc.. "B"	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	65,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.25	15.75	15.25	15.75	6,018,400
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12.25	13	12.25	13	54,000
11.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc..	9.5	11.5	9	11	12,809,000
3.1	0.57	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc..	2.5	2.6	2.48	2.5	58,910,000
0.39	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	19,650,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.37	7,840,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	91,900,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	22,000,000
30	1.98	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc..	24	24.5	24	24.25	2,362,400
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	242,500,000
9.8	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9.5	9.8	9.5	9.8	18,303,000
43.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	40	40.5	39.5	40.5	6,000
1.36	0.47	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.97	580,000
1.8	0.66	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.26	1.32	1.26	1.32	5,080,000
OIL							
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.35	12,500,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	833,400,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	249,200,000
13.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	11.5	13.25	11.5	13.25	3,782,300
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.028	0.03	0.028	0.03	1,074,900,000

AVERAGES		VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	954.05 UP 1.87	30,382,500	533,677,350.00
Industrial	4,643.96 DOWN 3.85	120,938,600	936,553,325.00
Holding Firms	2,175.29 UP 40.01	417,241,600	556,835,000.00
Property	1,706.67 DOWN 7.11	179,848,500	744,128,510.00
Service	1,864.52 UP 0.27	84,598,300	980,695,545.00
Mining & Oil	8,229.00 UP 302.68	2,878,325,100	747,472,790.00
All Shares Index	2,348.53 UP 8.20		
PSEI	3,784.88 UP 17.10		
	GRAND TOTALS	3,711,334,600	4,499,362,520.00

27,000 jobs generated under DA rice program

By Amy R. Remo

MORE THAN 27,000 JOBS HAVE been created under the Department of Agriculture's rice production program, benefiting some 250,000 farmers nationwide.

According to Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap, the government's Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program does more than just increase production of rice. It also provides livelihood for farming communities.

Under the program, the DA hopes to plant an additional 1.3 million hectares of land to rice for this year.

As of Oct. 5, Yap said some 1.23 million hectares of land had already been planted to rice, representing an accomplishment rate of 95 percent.

At the same time, the rice program has created 27,467 jobs so far, benefiting 246,721 farmers.

Yap added that they want to create 31,896 jobs and benefit 283,710 individuals in 2007.

As part of this increased rice production program, Yap said, the DA has also restored and rehabilitated irrigation systems covering 11,446 hectares. This, in turn, would generate 3,445 jobs, benefiting 3,847 households.

Some P9.4 billion had been earmarked for rural infrastructure this year, which would include the construction, repair and rehabilitation of national and communal irrigation systems.

In the first half of the year, some P5.5 billion had been released to restore irrigation for 55,000 hectares of rice fields in different provinces.

Under the program's fishery component, some 24,171 households were served, while the Bureau of Plant Industry's Programang Gulayan ng Masa has so far benefited 772,068 families as of Oct. 5.

Agencies involved in the Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program had been ordered by the national government to fast-track the program through EO No. 616, which was signed last April.

Gov't posts 17% drop in spending

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SPENT P531 billion from January to September to pay off its maturing obligations—a 17-percent drop from the amount spent in the same period last year.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that, of the amount used to pay the government's liabilities in the first nine months, P308.311 billion was accounted for by principal obligations while the remaining P222.689 billion was composed of payments for interests.

Based on source of liabilities, P376.922 billion of the total amount spent for debt servicing in the nine-month period was used to settle domestically obtained loans, while P154.078 billion was used to pay off foreign-denominated debts.

Officials from the Department of Finance said the decline in the allocation for debt service was partly due to the low-interest rate environment and strengthening of the peso, and also to the expected drop in the budget deficit.

The decline in interest rates allowed government to pay less on loans, while the appreciation of the peso means lower allocation for servicing debts that are denominated in foreign currencies.

Government sources the money used to pay off its maturing obligations partly from the taxes collected from the public and from privatization proceeds.

The amount of debt servicing in the first nine months comprised 65 percent of the P812.3 billion in total revenues collected by the government. This means bulk of government revenues go to debt servicing.

But the amount that went to debt servicing was already an improvement from the estimated 80 percent recorded at the height of the government's fiscal problems in early 2000.

DOF earlier reported that the government's outstanding debt stood at P3.764 trillion as of July this year.

TRADE TALK
John Forbes of the American Chamber of Commerce shakes the hand of Speaker Jose de Venecia during the 33rd Philippine Business Conference. The conference was held at the Manila Hotel last Thursday. RUDY ESPERAS

Banks' FCDU assets rebound to pre-Asian crisis levels

By Doris C. Dumlao

TOTAL ASSETS HELD BY THE BANKing system's foreign currency deposit units (FCDU) have rebounded to levels last seen prior to the Asian crisis 10 years ago, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

An FCDU is a unit of a local bank or of a local branch of a foreign bank authorized by the BSP to engage in foreign exchange denominated transactions, such as accepting foreign currency deposits and granting of foreign currency loans.

As of end-June, the BSP reported that the FCDU system's total assets reached $24.7 billion, up 14.3 percent from $21.6 billion a year ago.

"This is the highest recorded asset level, outpacing the prior peak of $21.7 billion posted at end-June of 1997," the BSP said.

The currency devaluations seen during the Asian crisis had resulted in a string of defaults among corporations with large dollar exposures. Since 1997, banks had lost appetite to lend in dollars.

Universal and commercial banks accounted for 95.8 percent, or $23.7 billion, of the total FCDU assets.

Thrift banks, on the other hand, held the balance of 4.2 percent, or $1 billion.

Deposit liabilities remained as the FCDUs' biggest source of funding, accounting for the lion's share of 78.5 percent of total resources. These deposits reached $19.4 billion during the period, up 11 percent from last year's $17.5 billion.

The FCDU system's deposit liabilities—such as those placed by overseas Filipinos, exporters or multinational corporations—are considered to be the country's second layer of foreign reserves.

PNOC-EDC bidders start due diligence

By Abigail L. Ho
and Doris C. Dumlao

ENERGY FIRMS THAT MADE THE CUT TO bid for the government's remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp. had already started with their due diligence audit on the company, firming up schedules for management presentations and site visits.

The initial pre-qualified bidders include Aboitiz Power Corp., Ashmore Group, Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc., Avenue Capital Group, Filinvest Development Corp., First Gen Corp., Geyser Green Energy, International Power, One Energy Ltd., Reykjavik Energy, San Miguel Energy Corp., Marubeni Corp. and Sumitomo Corp.

"We are encouraged by the high level of interest and the quality of their due diligence efforts," Philippine National Oil Co. president and Privatization Committee chair Antonio Cailao said in a statement yesterday. "Most of the bidding groups have already hired their own financial advisors, legal, technical and accounting consultants for this important endeavor."

He also said that issues and queries of the bidding groups "have been addressed and are in the process of being resolved."

PNOC's financial advisors, Development Bank of the Philippines and ING, last Thursday briefed the potential bidders on the terms of a proposed staple financing facility that would be made available to the bidding groups.

The firms that would pass final screening would be given until 9 a.m. of Nov. 21 to turn in their bids. Notice of award would be issued to the winning bidder by Nov. 22, with payment of 100 percent of the bid price to be remitted by Nov. 30.

PLDT group told to explain myTV service

By Riza T. Olchondra

SUBSIDIARIES OF THE PHILIPPINE LONG Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) group have been ordered to explain to regulators why their mobile TV service should not be cancelled.

In a two-page order, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) called to a hearing next month Smart Communications Inc., together with MediaQuest Holdings Inc. units Nation Broadcasting Corp. (NBC), GV Broadcasting System Inc. (GV Broadcasting) and 360 Media Inc. (360 Media). The hearing would give them the chance to explain why they should be allowed to continue offering a mobile TV service, called myTV, despite a complaint from the cable industry.

The Philippine Cable Television Association (PCTA) earlier asked the NTC to issue a cease-and-desist order against myTV.

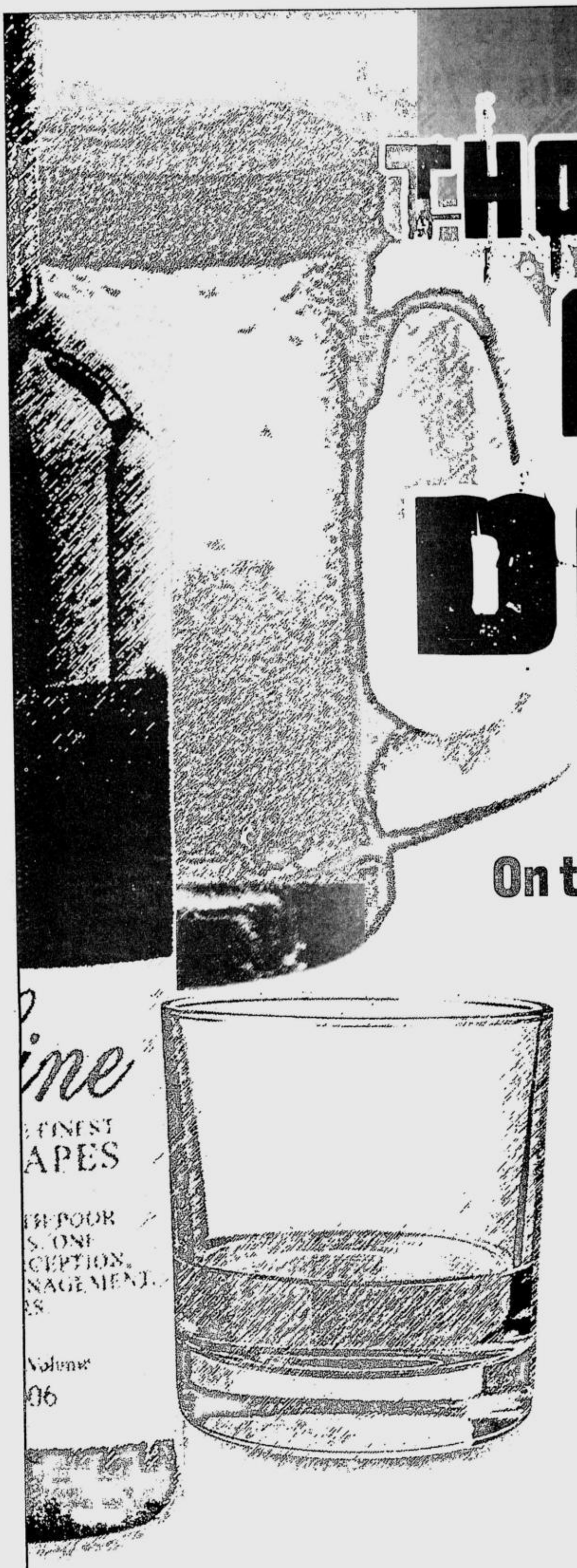
PCTA, which has some 300 cable TV providers as members, accused Smart, GV and 360Media of violating the Public Service Act and provisions of their respective permits by offering myTV. The cable group believes Smart cannot directly or indirectly offer a broadcasting service like myTV while its partners can only offer analog, and not digital, TV services.

The NTC has yet to come up with rules governing on digital TV. As such, it has not issued permits for the offering of digital TV services.

According to the PLDT group, myTV is being offered in partnership between Smart and 360Media.

MediaQuest president Orlando Vea said the respondents would take the chance to explain their side.

"This is expected when technologies are introduced," Vea said in a text message. "We welcome the opportunity to clarify the questions raised."



THOU SHALT NOT DRINK

On the day before the elections and on election day

On October 28, 2007, the day before the election and on October 29, 2007, election day, a nationwide liquor ban will take effect.

During said dates it is illegal for any person, including owners and managers of hotels and other establishments to sell, furnish, offer, buy, serve, or take intoxicating liquor anywhere in the country.

Hotels and other establishments duly certified by the Department of Tourism as tourist-oriented and habitually in the business of catering to foreign tourists may be exempted for justifiable reasons from the liquor ban, provided they secure prior written authority from the Commission.

Only foreign tourists taking intoxicating liquor in said authorized hotels or establishments are exempted from the prohibition.

Violation of the liquor ban constitutes an election offense and shall be punishable with imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than six (6) years and shall not be subject to probation. In addition, the guilty party shall suffer disqualification to hold public office and deprivation of the right of suffrage.

a public service reminder from the
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Education and Information Department

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SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.

The Tampakan Copper-Gold Project managed by Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI) has the following vacancies for regular position :

SECURITY OPERATIONS OFFICER

The position will be responsible for the implementation of the Company's security policies, undertaking internal investigations, designing procedures, programmes, and systems to safeguard personnel, facilities, equipment, and materials. Salary is commensurate with the role and responsibilities.

As a minimum, the ideal candidate will :

- Preferably be a graduate of PMA / PNPA
- Have at least 15 years supervisory experience
- Have experience in supervising field security operations
- Be proficient in MS Office Applications
- Possess excellent oral and written communication
- Be able to relate across all levels of the organization
- Hold a professional driver's license (Restriction Codes 1, 2, 3)

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The successful candidate will be responsible for the strategic direction of the Company's communication plans and achieve the desired project positioning outcomes. The functions will cover corporate imaging and branding, advertising and advocacy, marketing and crisis communications and issues management, and support the community and government relations teams.

As a minimum, the position requires the following :

- Masteral or Doctorate Degree, preferably in communications
- 10 years work experience in communications and communications management
- Excellent written and verbal communication abilities
- Proficient in MS Office application
- Has editorial and people skills
- Excellent in communication planning, strategic communications, project management, advocacy and marketing campaigns

RESEARCHER / WRITER

To be based in Makati, the role is primarily designed to contribute to the positioning of the Tampakan Project by writing and producing different materials for various media as prescribed in the communication plans and strategies and manage media relations in the national level.

Minimum requirements include :

- A Bachelor's Degree in Communications, Journalism, Research or any related course
- At least 3 years of work that requires research, writing and media relations
- Very good coordination, networking, and public relations skills
- Excellent writing ability in news, features, and information-education materials scripts
- Excellent language proficiency in English, Filipino and Visayan dialect

Qualified applicants are invited to submit their application letter with comprehensive résumé and Transcript of Records not later than 05 November 2007 to:

HUMAN RESOURCES
Sagittarius Mines, Inc.
JPM Building, Bula-Lagao Road
General Santos City
Tel No : (083) 552-8407
Fax No : (083) 552-8405
Email : **humanresources@smi.com.ph**

(Please indicate in the subject the position being applied for.)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Manila, Philippines

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Supply and delivery of various books (hardbound), as follows:

Item No.	Qty./Unit	Title	Approved Budget for the Contract
1.	21 copies	Advance Strategies in Financial Risk Management	P145,446.00
2.	21 copies	Basic Economics for Managers, c2006	58,926.00
3.	21 copies	Central Banking, Monetary Theory and Practice, c2003	233,898.00
4.	21 copies	Essentials of Economics, c2006	81,824.40
5.	21 copies	Financial and Managerial Accounting, 8e	95,928.00
6.	21 copies	Financial Institution & Markets, c2006	98,700.00
7.	21 copies	Financial Reporting, Financial Statement Analysis and Valuation, 6e	321,195.00
8.	21 copies	Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, c2007	54,600.00
9.	21 copies	International Financial Management, c2007	44,940.00
10.	21 copies	Management of Financial Services, c2006	35,910.00
11.	21 copies	Modern Labor Economics, c2006	202,779.15
12.	21 copies	Monetary History, Exchange Rates & Financial Markets, c2003	121,233.00
13.	21 copies	Money, Banking and Financial Markets, c2006	197,295.00
14.	21 copies	Oxford Dictionary of Finance and Banking, 3e	37,464.00
15.	21 copies	The Economic Way of Thinking, c2006	173,208.00
16.	21 copies	The Economics of Organization and Strategy, c2006	100,863.00
17.	21 copies	The Financial System and the Economy, c2006	81,900.00

Delivery Period: Within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of Purchase Order

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed from Y2002 to present amounting to at least 50% of the total ABC's of the items to be bid. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 26 October 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	16 November 2007, 11:30 A.M.
3. Opening of Bids	4 December 2007, 2:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 or 0.05% of the total ABC's of items to be bid, whichever is higher, to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI–October 27, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development IV-A CALABARZON
QMMC Compound, Project 4, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT REGION 4A, QMMC Compound, Project 4, Quezon City, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	:	Proposed Rehabilitation/Construction of Tagaytay Treatment and Rehabilitation Center
Location	:	Tagaytay City, Cavite
Brief Description	:	Repair/Rehabilitation/Construction of the following: Dormitory Gymnasium Administrative Building/Main Kitchen/Dining Hall Doctors' Quarters/Staffhouse - 4 units Guard House/Comfort Room/Waiting Area Covered Walkway Laundry Area/Drying Area Guard Quarters
Approved Budget for Contract	:	Php 18,900,000.00
Contract Duration	:	180 working days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract.

The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	November 9 - 14, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms and Bidding Documents	November 15 - 22, 2007
3. Pre-Bid Conference	November 23, 2007
4. Receipt of Eligibility and Opening of Bids	November 26, 2007

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at QMMC Compound, Project 4, Quezon City, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT REGION 4A Cashier.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 12,000.00 to the CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT REGION 4A Cashier.

The CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT REGION 4A assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) NOEL G. PASION, MD, MPH
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 27, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
MARIKINA POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE
Sta. Elena, Marikina City
Tel. No. 682-0591 / 933-6790

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Marikina Polytechnic College through its Bids and Awards Committee invites interested Bidder to apply for eligibility and to Bid for the following:

1. Construction of 3 classrooms on the third floor of IICT Buildings-Bid amount is at Php 1,000,000.00
2. Rehabilitation of WAF Building – Bid amount is at Php 612,000.00

	BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1.	Receipt from prospective bidder,s Letter of Intent (LOI)	November 3 – November 9, 2007 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
2.	Eligibility Check	November 10, 2007
3.	Issuance and availability of Bidding Documents	November 11 – November 17, 2007 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
4.	Pre-Bid Conference	November 18, 2007, 9:00 AM
5.	Submission and Opening of Bid Documents Opening –	November 30, 2007 8:00 AM – 12:00 NN 1:30 PM

All particulars relative to Eligibility screening, pre-bid Conference evaluation of Bid, Post-Qualifications and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders at the BAC Office at the TESDP Building upon payment of non-refundable amount of SEVEN THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php 7,000.00). In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the official receipt issued by the Cashiers to the BAC Secretariat.

MPC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bid documents.

MPC reserves the right to accept BIDS that are considered Most Advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **GUNDAWAY F. LAURO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 27, 2007)

Contract Manager

The US Naval Facilities Engineering command is seeking qualified applicants for the position of service contract project manager at WESMINCOM Zamboanga City, Mindanao. Contract currently encompasses aviation and waterfront operations, dining facility operation, MWR, facilities support. Employment will initially be via annual renewable contract. Qualified applicants will be required to have appropriate clearances and will preferably have had prior military experience. Submit resumé, compensation requirements, and inquiries to: HRO@navfacpacific.us.

Quality Assurance Representative

The US Naval Facilities Engineering command is seeking qualified applicants for the position of quality assurance representative at WESMINCOM Zamboanga City, Mindanao. The position will provide quality assurance for service contracts and construction contracts. Employment will initially be via annual renewable contract. Qualified applicants will be required to have a minimum of a BS in an appropriate engineering curriculum from an accredited university. Submit resumé, compensation requirements, and inquiries to: HRO@navfacpacific.us.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Effective November 5, 2007, our Iloilo Branch located at 4th Floor Diongjin Bldg., #5 Valeria Street, Iloilo City will be temporarily closed. Any transaction effective Nov. 5, 2007 will not be honored.

(PDI–October 27, 2007)

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OBITUARIES

ALFONSO D. SANTOS
"PONCHIT"

Peacefully joined our Creator on June 18, 2006 in Yellowknife, NT Canada.

His cremated remains will be interred after the 2:00 pm Mass today, October 27, 2007 to be held at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Loyola Memorial Park Marikina .

He is lovingly remembered by his wife **Nene Brosas Santos**; parents **Col. Vivencio P. Santos** (†) and **Engracia Delfino Santos**; sister **Benilda Santos-Ramos** & husband **Tony**; daughter **Lourdes Rankin** & husband **Doug**; son **Anthony**; & **Jodie Thom**; grandchildren **Victoria** & **Mitchell Rankin**, relatives & friends.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:7

BETTY REYES CERTEZA

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 23, 2007 at the age of 80.

Her loving husband **Tim**, children **Bettina** and **Gi**, **Yoland Lea** and **Ronald**, **Tim III** and **Sandra**, and **Michaela**; grandchildren, sisters, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Mother Ignacia St. cor. Timog Ave., Q. C.

There will be a 1 PM Mass on October 27, 2007 at St. Paul the Apostle Parish. Cremation will follow at the Loyola Memorial, Marikina City.

"Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to me."
– Psalm 116:7

AIDA CRUZ MOJICA

peacefully joined her Creator on the 26th of October, 2007.

She will be missed by her children, **Dino** & **Katryna**, **Bim** & **Cocoy** and her grandchildren, **Hannah** and **Coby**.

Her body lies in state at Hope Chapel of Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc., #12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Monday, October 29, 2007 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
SCIENCE/HEALTH
E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.
Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Breast cancer patient wins fight vs 'Big C'

VILLALON

By Tess S. Samaniego

IT'S JUST A BREAST" OR so they say but for Maria Fatima L. Tioseco, Pamsy to her family and friends, who was diagnosed to have breast cancer more than two years ago, it was more than just losing a breast.

In June 2005, Pamsy felt differently about cancer. She reminisced that when she first learned through her doctor that she may have breast cancer, she only felt pity and fear for herself. "Cancer is such a frightening word. I had no idea then what breast cancer exactly was and what was going to happen to me," she said.

Pamsy recounted her story at the "A-Z of Breast Cancer" media forum, sponsored by AstraZeneca in line with the celebration of breast cancer awareness month, that it all started when she felt a hard lump on her breast. Alarmed, she even asked an officemate to feel it for her, who in turn said it indeed was hard and felt different.

With just a breast

When Pamsy consulted a doctor, she was advised to have the mass on her breast removed. If it was benign, Pamsy's doctor said they only need to remove the mass, but if it had cancer cells then she would have to undergo a mastectomy. "When I woke up from the recovery room with just a breast, I realized, and had to accept, that I have breast cancer," she said.

After the operation, Pamsy reminisced that she couldn't stop crying and wondered why God had to give her cancer.

And it didn't end there. Pamsy had to go through a battery of tests and procedures, such as chemotherapy and radiation, which frightened her all the more.

TIOSECO (right) with fellow breast cancer survivor Carla Paras Sison

She's fortunate that she had the "best support group"—her mom, friends, relatives and schoolmates—who helped her go through this ordeal.

Happy disposition

Realizing that she couldn't cry all her life, she decided to focus on the good things and count all her blessings. Since then, Pamsy tried to maintain a happy disposition and had even made a brave effort to reach out to fellow breast cancer patients.

Pamsy is now an active member of the I Can Serve Foundation, organized in 1999 by fellow cancer survivor Kara Magsanoc Alikpala, and is continuously inspiring others with her successful bout with breast cancer, hoping that people would be more aware and knowledgeable about it.

And indeed, it helps to know more about breast cancer as stressed by Dr. Antonio Villalon, guest speaker in the same forum.

Villalon is the chief of Medical Oncology at the Manila Doctors Hospital and an associate professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and Philippine General Hospital. In his lecture titled "Understanding Breast Cancer and Treatment Options," he gave an overview of the disease—its causes, characteristics, diagnosis and treatment.

3rd leading cause of death

According to Villalon, breast cancer is the third leading cause of death in the country and accounts for 10 percent of the total deaths reported. He said that out of 100,000 women 30 percent are likely to have breast cancer.

In fact, among all types of cancer, breast cancer is found to be the No.1 cause of death among Filipino women. Worldwide, an "estimated 1 million cases will be identified this year, and about 500,000 new and existing patients will die from the disease," according to Time magazine. It added that "by 2020, 70 percent of all breast cancer cases worldwide will be in developing countries." With these growing numbers, Villalon stressed the need to know more about breast cancer.

Knowing more about it can prompt women to constantly check for lumps or any unusual changes in their bodies. By doing so, women can avoid the possibility of having cancer and other diseases. According to Villalon, the earlier a cancerous lump is detected and removed, the bigger the chances of treating it.

He advised that between 20 and 39 years old, every woman should have a clinical breast exam every three years; and after age 40 every woman should have a clinical breast exam done each year.

Usually, it takes about 100 million cancer cells before it can be detected by mammogram. However, the number of cancer cells increases slowly and may take years to become detectable, he explained.

In his lecture, Villalon said breast cancer happens when cells in the breast begin to grow out of control and invade nearby tissues. He added that cancer relies on estrogen for it to grow. Large collections of this out-of-control tissues are called tumors, which can either be cancerous or benign. However, it may take months or even years for a tumor to grow large enough to be felt.

Possible signs

Villalon said possible signs of breast cancer include lumps or thickening in the breast or underarm, change in the size or shape of the breast, nipple discharge or nipple turning inward, redness or scaling of the skin of nipple, and ridges or pitting of the breast skin.

Until now, no exact causes for breast cancer have been identified. Some contributors, Villalon noted, are delayed menopause and pregnancy or childbirth, contraceptive pills and hormone replacement therapy, diet, lifestyle and heredity.

Breast cancer can usually be detected through imaging and biopsy. If diagnosed with breast cancer, Villalon said this can be treated by surgery, hormonal treatment such as AstraZeneca's Arimidex, chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

BREAST/ B7

Developments on breast cancer

THOUGH HIGHLY TREATABLE, breast cancer is still the second most common cancer in the world.

C Network, an organization actively campaigning for breast cancer prevention, said that although the growing incidence of breast cancer is alarming, it is one of the most well-studied and treatable types of cancer.

In line with this, the organization has partnered with the Department of Health and the Philippine Cancer Society to ensure that Filipinos will have the latest knowledge about breast cancer.

According to the World Health Organization, 8 to 9 percent of women will develop breast cancer during their lifetime.

However, women should not panic once they feel a lump on their breast and instead, should have it screened by a doctor.

One of the most stressful chapters will be the time awaiting for the diagnosis.

But one should remember that most breast lumps are harmless, with up to three of four lumps that are suspected of being cancerous turning out to be benign cysts, fibromas or lipomas.

Highly treatable

If discovered early, breast cancer is highly treatable.

Once breast cancer is diagnosed, surgery is often done to remove lumps. Various types of treatment are available.

But before deciding on the course of treatment, you must have good understanding of breast cancer and what the results of your diagnosis indicate.

The specific treatment will depend on your test results, age, general health and family history.

Treatments

A number of treatments can be administered on patients which include:

- **Primary Systemic Therapy** (neoadjuvant therapy)—aims to reduce tumor size for breast conserving surgical treatment
- **Surgery**—removing the tumor through a lumpectomy
- **Adjuvant Radiation Therapy**—high-energy X-rays to destroy cancer cells
- **Hormonal Therapy**—Some breast cancers are dependent on estrogen (ER-positive). This therapy blocks the growth of ER-positive tumors.
- **Chemotherapy**—used as a component of treatment in both early disease and advanced disease settings. A number of chemo drugs are used alone or in combination with other therapies such as anthacyclines, taxanes, alkylating agents and oral chemotherapy capecitabine.

C Network will be holding a free breast cancer screening inMetro Manila. For details, visit their website at www.cnetwork.org1pb.

Tess S. Samaniego

Are you at risk for diabetes?

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

THERE IS AN ASIAN DISEASE, AND it is called diabetes. Four out of the top five diabetes-hit countries are in Asia, with almost 90 million people suffering from this disease. To make matters worse, half of all new cases of Type 2 diabetes are now diagnosed in children and adolescents.

In people with diabetes, blood sugar in the body rises extremely high. In a healthy body, the pancreas produces a hormone called insulin that transforms the sugar into energy for the body. Something goes awry in diabetics. In Type 1 diabetes, the pancreas does not produce insulin. In Type 2 diabetes, the insulin produced is not enough or the body's cells don't use it well. Type 2 diabetes is more common, and strikes around ninety percent of all diabetics.

Diabetes also increases the risk of other deadly diseases, such as heart disease and stroke. It causes cholesterol and triglycerides to rise. Other complications include poor circulation and increased risk of amputation, declining eyesight and kidney failure.

Warning signs

Half of people with early signs of diabetes do not know that they have it. What are the risks and warning signs?

People at risk are those with a family history of diabetes, those who are overweight and do not exercise, those over age 65, and women who developed diabetes during pregnancy.

According to the Asian Food Information Centre (Afic) in Singapore, "Type 2 diabetes usually progresses quite slowly and many people don't realize they have it until they develop a complication. The most common symptoms of Type 2 diabetes are excessive thirst, frequent passing of urine, hunger, unintentional weight loss, lack of energy, blurred vision, slow healing of cuts or bruises, tingling or loss of feelings in hands or feet, and recurring infection of the skin, gum, vagina, or urinary tract."

Battling diabetes

How can we prevent diabetes? Diet and exercise. Afic gives the following specific recommendations:

First, lose excess weight. More than eight out of 10 Type 2 diabetics are overweight. Reducing excess body weight by seven to 10 percent halves the chance of developing type 2 diabetes. High levels of fat around the stomach or abdominal area is a warning sign. Check your risk by measuring your waist circumference. Use a tape measure midway between the lowest rib and the upper part of the hip bone. A waist circumference of less than 90 centimeters for men or 80 centimeters for women is considered low risk.

Second, exercise. Active use of muscle increases its ability to use insulin, so being active can cut risk in half. Exercise consists of three parts: aerobic exercise, strength training, and flexibility exercises.

Aerobic exercise, such as walking or swimming, should be done at least five times a week for about 30 minutes a day. If you need to lose weight, more exercise time is beneficial.

Strength training, such as working out with weights, makes the body burn more calories and improves the body's ability to lower blood sugar levels. Do this three times a week.

Flexibility exercises, such as stretching, keep the joints flexible and reduce the risk of getting injured during exercise. Of course, consult your doctor before starting any exercise program.

Afic says, "Increasing your physical activity doesn't have to mean trips to the gym or sports club. Small changes in everyday lifestyle can be enough to make a difference. Why not walk part of the way to work or to the shops? Do some gardening? Get involved in active play with your children or grandchildren? Take the stairs instead the lift or elevator, or climb the elevator?"

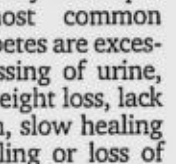
Visit the Afic website for a quick assessment of your risk of developing diabetes (www.afic.org). Click on "self-assessment of risk for Type 2 diabetes" at http://www.afic.org/T2DM/T2DM.htm. This is not a replacement for visiting the doctor but it might encourage you to get checked out if you are one of the many who may have Type 2 diabetes without knowing it, or be at risk of developing it.

* * *

Contact the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Automatically anti-terror

DISCOVER



Massie Santos Ballon

THERE ARE PROBABLY HARD NUMbers for this somewhere, but chances are good that at this very moment, at a number of locations around the world, several people are taking a few moments out of their day to realize that death will inevitably come for them.

Having done so, they're now likely to be thinking happy thoughts to counter the morbid notions that just crossed their minds.

Terror management theory

Over 30 years ago, a group of psychologists proposed that such negative responses which come from being forced to consider one's own impending demise form the basis of what they called "terror management theory."

A decade ago, another group of researchers proposed a revision to the theory. The new version says that while most people get upset when consciously thinking about their own mortality, very few actually run screaming from the notion because the subconscious part of their minds are distracting them from doing so.

According to these psychologists, the automatic mental block set up by the brain counters the panic response so subtly, people don't even realize they're actually terrified of death.

Series of experiments

To get a better understanding of just how this unconscious response works, psychologists Nathan DeWall from the University of Kentucky and Roy Baumeister at Florida State University conducted a series of experiments to find out how people cope with thinking about their own deaths. A recently-hired professor, lead author DeWall conducted the research while still a graduate student in Baumeister's lab.

In the November issue of the journal Psychological Science, DeWall and Baumeister detailed three experiments, each of which began by having half the participants fill out questionnaires that made them think about their own deaths. The other half of the respondents filled out questionnaires that were described in the paper as "designed to induce unpleasant thoughts unrelated to death (i.e., dental pain)."

Once all the participants were in the right, negative frame of mind, they completed several word tests that gauged their moods and ultimately the brain's response to the mindset. One test, for example, asked volunteers to fill in the missing letters to unfinished words like "jo__." Possible answers included the positively nuanced "job" and the more neutral "job."

Another test gave volunteers one word and asked them to decide which of two other words was most similar. For example, if the word was "nightmare," participants had to choose between the more neutral option "thought" and the more negative "punishment."

Psychologically threatening

Based on the results of these tests, DeWall and Baumeister found that the participants who pondered their own deaths chose more positive answers. Those who were thinking about the unpleasant but less personal visit to the dentist during the tests had more neutral answers. As the researchers themselves put it in their paper's conclusion: "Death is a psychologically threatening fact, but when people contemplate it, apparently the automatic system begins to search for happy thoughts."

People may not know when and where death may come—be it at home, at work, or in the mall—but the brain keeps the terrors of these unknowns at bay by using something akin to what the late Deborah Kerr advised in "The King and I." The brain may not be able to "whistle a happy tune" when a person considers his own mortality, but happy thoughts nevertheless convince the person that there's nothing to fear.

* * *

Correction: The recent article on SIDS should have noted that the acronym stands for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

* * *

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

KIDS QUIZ By Emman Cena

Celebrity's pups

THEY CAN BE TAUGHT TABLE AND toilet manners, they can be our trusty home guards and even play heroes to a needy family member. True enough, they are no strangers to most households—them furry canines we play and horse around with—dogs aptly called man's best friend, also considered the most loved pet animals on earth.

Even the stars, the rich and the famous own one. Yes, even some of former US presidents wake up with dogs at their bedside.

Pop star Britney Spears has two dogs, a Chihuahua named Bit Bit and a Maltese she calls Lacey. Ellen DeGeneres, of the Emmy award winning talk show, owns a Border Collie. A lot more celebrities have those pet pups. Who owns what?

Here's our weekly test kiddos and dog lovers. Match the celebrity listed on the left with his/her corresponding pet dog breed on the right.

Best of luck! Arf! Arf!

Celebrity	Dog breeds
1. Jessica Alba	a. Great Dane
2. Kelly Osbourne	b. Scottish Terrier
3. Nicole Richie	c. Maltese
4. Paris Hilton	d. Cocker Spaniel
5. Jessica Simp	son e. Chihuahua
6. Britney Spears	f. Chow Chow
7. Franklin D. Roosevelt	g. Dalmatian
8. Sarah McLachlan	h. puggle
9. Andy Warhol	i. pug
10. Will Smith	j. Rottweiler
11. Gloria Estefan	k. Pomeranian, Shih Tzu
12. Bill Clinton	l. black Labrador
13. Janet Jackson	m. Maltipoo
14. Paul McCartney	n. Sheepdog
15. Jake Gyllenhaal	o. German Shepherd

Score: 1-4 Good; 5-7 Very Good; 8-10 Excellent; 11-15 Genius!

Answers: 1-i, 2-h, 3-k, 4-e, 5-m, 6-c, 7-b, 8-l, 9-a, 10-j, 11-g, 12-d, 13-f, 14-n, 15-o

New vaccine breaks ground on diarrhea cure

By Emman Cena

A CHILD WHO HAD LIVED in a slum area may have suffered diarrhea at an early age. Another one born to a filthy rich family would have his own bouts of the deadly disease. True enough, each year, almost half a million infants die worldwide. It sees no one, it kills anyone.

New oral vaccine

But with the release in the Philippine market of a new oral vaccine developed to protect infants and children against the killer diarrhea, this should not pose a huge cause of worry for mothers and fathers alike.

RotaTeq, a vaccine introduced by Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD), is proven to ward off Rotavirus, the leading case of severe, dehydrating diarrhea in infants.

CO

"It is the only US Food and Drugs Administration-approved vaccine against rotavirus gastroenteritis," says Dr. Benjamin Co, at a press launch held on Thursday at the Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati City.

RotaTeq is a liquid vaccine given by mouth, rather than by a shot and given in three doses for best protection. The first dose should be given to infants as early as six weeks old and the two additional doses given at 4-10 week intervals.

A child who missed his or her first dose at the recommended age should not be given the follow-on doses, Co points out.

The recently BFDA-approved pentavalent oral vaccine contains five human-bovine serotypes: G1, G2, G3, G4 and P1 that are responsible for over 88 percent of all the cases of rotavirus diarrhea in the world.

Representatives of the MSD say that RotaTeq costs as much as P3,000 per dose, equally priced with its local competitor.

It may be too pricey to cash-strapped low-salaried mothers, but the reward is in itself an investment. The vaccine has been found to prevent about 75 percent of cases of infection and 98 percent of severe cases.

Best cure

While prevention still holds out the best cure to all diseases, Co says having infants vaccinated with RotaTeq is also a worthwhile investment.

"It is potentially serious and unpredictable disease. It can be fatal and every child in his first five years of life is surely to suffer it," Co adds.

"The virus is very democratic, it is found in every country," he quips.

Most mothers would mistake rotavirus gastroenteritis for a simple case of amebiasis and other bacterial infections, Co says, making it more fatal to infants.

"If not immediately and efficiently handled, it can have consequences as kidney damage, circulatory collapse and even death," adds Co, a fellow of the Philippine Pediatric Society and pediatrics consultant at the Asian Hospital & Medical Center and the University of Santo Tomas Hospital.

Symptoms

So how do you know if your child's diarrhea bout is caused by a Rotavirus?

Children infected by Rotavirus gastroenteritis usually have fever, nausea, loss of appetite and vomiting, which are often followed by abdominal cramps and frequent watery diarrhea.

If the infection gets severe, it quickly leads to dehydration which can be observed to children who are unusually restless, irritable and thirsty. They may have also sunken eyes, dry mouth and tongue and dry skin.

In cases where a child missed vaccination, the best way to treat it is to replace the fluids lost with those that contain sugar and minerals or those oral rehydrating solutions.

Aside from vaccination, the best way to prevent the highly contagious virus is through proper hygiene.

Advice

Co advises mothers of frequent hand washing and to caution their children from playing on messy areas even at play houses likely to be infected by Rotavirus.

"The virus is transmitted from person to person or through intake of infected water or food. Even simple contact with surfaces such as toys, pillows and diapers is likely to cause it to spread."

Records show that worldwide, almost all children will suffer a rotavirus gastroenteritis episode, 1 in every 5 will see a physician, 1 in every 65 will be hospitalized and 1 in every 293 will die.

So why wait before the case gets severe? Have your kids vaccinated now.

A rejoinder on being fat yet fit, lean but unfit

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

WE RECEIVED A GOOD NUMBER OF feedback and questions regarding last week's column on being fat yet fit, and lean but unfit. A rejoinder is in order.

Firstly, we inadvertently exchanged the values for the waist circumference (WC) measurement for Asian men and women. The ideal values should be less than 90 centimeters (35.5 inches) in men and less than 80 centimeters (31.5 inches) in women. Caucasian cut-off values are higher: approximately 40 inches for men, and 35.5 inches for women.

Different values

Why different values for Asians and Caucasians? It's not arbitrary and definitely nothing verging on racism. It's borne out of hard research data that ethnic differences exist with regard to the relationship of the waist circumference and cardiovascular risk, such that measurements above these identified cut-off values are associated with a significant increase in the risk of developing stroke, heart attack and other cardiovascular complications.

Researchers have shown this initially in Asians living in America. If they used the accepted cut-off values for Caucasians in those with Asian ethnicity, what would appear to be a marginally increased waist circumference of 37-39 inches in men and 32-35 inches in women were already associated with greater risk. This finding has been validated by other studies conducted in Asia.

The reason for this is that Asians are inherently predisposed to be more insulin resistant than Caucasians. Insulin is not only responsible for sugar metabolism but it also governs fat metabolism and distribution. Many believe that significant abdominal obesity is one of the tell-tale signs of insulin resistance, which is identified as the culprit leading to hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol problems and obesity.

Identifying high-risk patients

Galo Barrios texted his question if a normal waist circumference (WC) will rule out the metabolic syndrome. Increased WC is just one of five criteria for identifying high-risk patients with the metabolic syndrome. The other four criteria are the blood pressure (higher than 130/85 mmHg), blood sugar level (higher than 100 mg/dl), a low high-density cholesterol or the good cholesterol (lower than 40 mg/dl in men and less than 50 mg/dl in women) and high triglycerides (more than 150 mg/dl). Three out of five make a diagnosis of metabolic syndrome.

Although one big international medical organization is proposing that the syndrome should never be diagnosed without obesity, indicated by increased WC, the prevailing opinion is that any three of the five criteria can already strongly identify patients with metabolic syndrome.

Body fat indicators

Marissa Reyes from Merville Park, Parañaque, asked about the waist-hip ratio (WHR) and the body mass index (BMI).

The WHR and BMI are also indicators of body fat, but most clinicians now prefer to use the waist circumference for practical reasons. It's easier to determine, requiring only one measurement and not entailing any computation, as the WHR and the BMI do.

To determine the WHR, divide the WC by the hip measurement. It should not be more than 1 (preferably 0.9) in men and not more than 0.8 (preferably 0.7) in women. So one may still be overweight but if his/her proportions are still okay, as shown by the WHR, then the associated risk may still be not significant. Conversely, the seemingly normal-weight individual with bulging belly—hence, higher WCR—may be at a higher risk.

The BMI, expressed as kg/m2, is computed by dividing the weight in kilogram by the height in meter squared. In Caucasians, a BMI higher than 25 is considered overweight, while in Filipinos and other Asians, a BMI higher than 23 is already considered overweight.

There are some inherent limitations in using the BMI to evaluate fatness and leanness. As the term implies, it measures total body mass which not only includes fat but muscle and bone as well. Hence, it can be easily distorted by such factors as fitness level, muscle mass, bone structure, gender and again, ethnicity.

In athletes, for example, the muscle is heavier than fat. So they may seem overweight based on their BMI measurement. Hence, the BMI may overestimate fatness in those with more lean body mass like the athletes, while underestimating fatness in those with less lean body mass such as in the elderly.

Healthy lifestyle

Singapore-based Alex Lip, a manager at Omron Singapore Pte Ltd., gave me an interesting feedback. He calls seemingly lean individuals with increased fat mass as having "hidden obesity." This is why his company has developed modern sensitive devices to detect BMI and abdominal obesity accurately.

So how do we remain fat yet fit and prevent becoming lean but unfit? Nothing beats the good old healthy lifestyle. Eating a high-fiber low-fat diet, avoiding fast foods like the plague, avoiding being sedentary especially after retirement, doing regular exercise on most days of the week (preferably daily), nonsmoking and avoiding those who do, drinking no more than an ounce of alcohol a day, and managing stress effectively all go a long way to ensure a healthy direction far away from the emergency room or the morgue.

Postgrad course on ECG, stress test

THE HEART INSTITUTE OF ST. LUKE'S Medical Center offers cutting-edge technologies that detect early-stage heart disease thereby, intervene before a heart attack manifests clinically.

These life-saving tests include nuclear stress testing, echocardiography, coronary angiography/cardiac catheterization laboratory (Cathlab), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), 64-slice CT scanner, and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner.

Technological advances

All six tests were featured in a Time magazine cover story titled "How to Stop a Heart Attack before it Happens." The Time article explained the many technological advances in the area of diagnostic imaging, which helps doctors make accurate diagnoses and prescribe targeted treatments. St. Luke's Medical Center is the only healthcare facility in the Philippines that has all the advanced equipment featured in the Time cover story.

To provide doctors and other health professionals with the latest knowledge in caring for patients with the use of these technologies, St. Luke's Heart Institute will be holding a postgraduate course on ECG, stress test and nuclear imaging on Nov. 9 and 10 at 2/F Conference Room, St. Luke's Medical Center.

Topics, speakers

Topics to be discussed include Chamber Enlargement, AV Blocks, Basic Electrophysiologic Concepts of Exercise, Exercise ECG: its value for predicting cardiovascular risk, Abnormal Stress Testing: Beyond ST segment, and Basic Principles, Indications, Contraindications of Nuclear Testing.

The course speakers include St. Luke's Heart Institute director emeritus Dr. Homobono Calleja, ECG and Holter Laboratory department head Dr. Juliana Tamayo, and Nuclear Cardiology section chief Dr. Edward Benjie Magsombol.

St. Luke's Heart Institute is ably directed by top cardiologists, interventionalists and surgeons who are supported by a highly trained paramedical staff. With a 99 percent success rate in open-heart surgeries and coronary angioplasty and stenting, St. Luke's Heart Institute is comparable with the best medical centers in the world.

Under the directorship of Dr. Antonio S. Sibulo Jr., the Heart Institute exemplifies St. Luke's Medical Center's unequalled excellence in expertise, technology, quality of healthcare outcomes, and service for total quality patient care in the country. It saves more lives and maintains the quality of life of its patients. For details, please call 723-0101/0301 ext. 5402 and 5403.

Another victory for one of RP's greatest athletes

CAREPLUS

Christine F. Liwanag

RAMONCITO CAMPOS IS one of the Philippines' most outstanding athletes. He is a three-time Olympian in basketball (1948 London, 1952 Helsinki, 1956 Melbourne), a member of the fabled Philippine basketball team of the '50s, and an inductee of the Basketball Hall of Fame.

"I've been active all my life. Aside from basketball, I was into soccer and track and field. I now play golf," Campos says.

Several years ago, a degenerative knee condition threatened to end his illustrious sports career and active lifestyle. Osteoarthritis had progressively damaged the cartilage in his knees, causing bone surfaces to rub against each other. A veteran of many epic hard court battles, Campos faced the toughest fight of his life yet.

"The pain in my knees was excruciating and severely compromised my mobility," Campos recalls. "I had to use a cane while playing golf!"

Knee surgery

Campos considered having knee surgery after friends advised him to undergo the procedure. Acquaintances from a multinational company referred him to Dr. Antonio N. Tanchuling Jr., director of the Institute of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine and head of the Center for Joint Replacement Surgery at St. Luke's Medical Center. Campos set an appointment with the noted orthopedic surgeon.

"When he first consulted me, he had been in great pain and using a cane for almost a year," Tanchuling narrates. "He was depressed and irritable."

After X-ray showed Campos had severe osteoarthritis of both knees, Tanchuling recommended bilateral total knee replacement. The procedure involves replacing the damaged cartilage at the ends of the thigh bone and the leg bone—the ones rubbing against each other and causing terrible pain—with metal and plastic implants called "prostheses." The prostheses would become Campos' new knees.

"I never considered having the surgery in the US because I felt doctors in the Philippines are as good as those in the States," says Campos, who previously had two feet of his large intestine surgically removed at St. Luke's. "When I learned that Dr. Tanchuling would be performing my knee surgery at St. Luke's, I said go!"

The operation took about two and a half hours. Campos was discharged 5 days later and, after two months of recovery, was able to walk on his own.

Excellent care

"The care I received at St. Luke's was excellent. I was very happy during my confinement. The hospital chaplain visited me in my room and we talked about basketball," Campos says.

Today, Campos continues his passion for athletic excellence. He recently won as Golf Champion in the senior's category of the Meralco Chairman's Cup.

"Life has never been so good. The pain is gone, I can go anywhere and do anything," a smiling Campos says. "My only regret is not having decided to undergo surgery earlier. I could have won more championship trophies."

Most modern

St. Luke's Institute of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine is the most modern and one of the best-staffed orthopedic facilities in the Philippines. It offers the latest imaging technology (real-time fluoroscopy) that helps surgeons perform precise orthopedic surgical procedures. It introduced minimally invasive surgical techniques in total joint replacement that have resulted in less pain and shorter hospital stay for patients.

To date, the Institute has performed the most number of simple and complex spine, sports and total joint replacement surgical procedures in the country. Its Center for Joint Replacement Surgery is the only such center in the country that caters primarily to joint replacement surgical cases involving the knee, hip, shoulder and ankle joints.

In 2004, Tanchuling performed the country's first and only image-guided total knee and joint replacement surgery.

* * *

For feedback, please e-mail the Healthcare Technology and Outcomes Information Bureau at inquire@htoib.com.

CAMPOS with Dr. Antonio N. Tanchuling Jr.

Breast cancer. . . From page B6

Professsional support

He likewise stressed that it would help cancer patients to get professional support from a breast care nurse, outside organizations, psychologist or support groups.

According to Villalon, treatment of breast cancer however, takes a long time. He advises patients to have regular check-ups after they have undergone treatment, to reduce the possibility of recurrence.

Given all these developments in medicine and technology, breast cancer should no longer be a huge cause for worry among women unlike before, provided that they do their part. In this case, an ounce of prevention is still better than a pound of cure.

BUSINESS

The Mindanao business agenda

(First of two parts)

THE BUSINESS SECTOR IS ONE OF THE main components in the development of an area, considering its gargantuan role in harnessing capital and human resources.

In Mindanao, the business sector is a key partner of government in providing policy directions in order to achieve not just peace but also economic stability, which the people of Mindanao have long been dreaming about.

During the 16th Mindanao Business Conference, the business sector and the chambers of commerce submitted to the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry the Mindanao Business Agenda, which was submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo during the recently-concluded Philippine Business Conference.

Peace and development

In that 12-point resolution, peace remains the top priority.

The business sector said there must be a mechanism to "ensure effective and rapid implementation of peace and development programs in Mindanao and fast track the final resolution of a peace agreement between the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)."

It aptly pointed out that government, "in coordination with the private sector, must expedite and ensure effective implementation of peace and development programs in predominantly Muslim and poor areas."

It also urged the government to continue bringing peace and development to "strategic areas" by persuading business leaders to match these with possible investors who are willing to pour their capital into these areas.

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

The business sector also pushed for more public investments in areas hounded by conflicts, particularly in restoring damaged infrastructure facilities.

More funds

The second point is for government to "accelerate infrastructure development through increased budgetary allocations and efficient use of resources."

The business sector wants key government agencies, like the Departments of Transportation and Communications, Public Works and Highways, and Agriculture to "ensure a 30 percent allocation of their annual appropriations from 2008 to 2010 as legacy infrastructure investment of the Arroyo Administration to Mindanao."

It lamented, however, that the DOTC "has only allotted P940 million for Mindanao in the proposed 2008 budget, which is equivalent to only five percent of the total DOTC budget for 2008."

The appeal for more budget for Mindanao continues to fall on deaf ears despite attempts of both Mindanao leaders and some top national government leaders for the national government to set aside enough funds for Mindanao.

I hope that at this time, the national government will realize how important investing in Mindanao is to the general development picture of the country.

Strengthening ICT capital

The third top point in the agenda is for the government and the private to join hands in accelerating "the establishment of a reliable and sufficient Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure for Mindanao."

It pointed out that the national government must cancel its controversial agreement with China on the setting up of the National Broadband Network and instead replace this with the build-operate-transfer projects, with the government preparing the pre-feasibility study and selecting a private entity to implement it.

The business sector also wants the Commission on Information and Communications Technology to persuade the telecommunications companies to reduce cost of broadband in key Mindanao cities and for local government units in these cities to fast-track the establishment of information technology parks.

These local government units should also partner with their respective chambers of commerce in promoting investments in the industry by providing sound incentives to those willing to invest.

To be continued.

(Joji Ilagan-Bian is a strong and respected advocate for the development of the island. She is chair of Joji Ilagan Foundation, Phil. Call Centers Alliance, Mindanao Tech Voc Schools Association; Mindanao Rep, Export Development Council. Email comments jojibian2@yahoo.com)

Hard Rock eyes casino, hotel ventures

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TOP EXECUTIVES OF HARD ROCK INTERnational are looking at opportunities in the country for its hotel and casino business as they announced a multi-million peso upgrade of their cafe in Makati City.

Hamish Dodds, company president and chief executive, yesterday said in an interview that the Hard Rock Cafe at Glorietta 3 in Ayala Center would undergo a "marginal upgrade" in line with a global thrust to ramp up its global chain that covers 123 cafes in 46 countries.

Dodds said that the strategy has proved itself in the United States, with profits in Hard Rock's company-owned cafes trebling after the makeover.

"Here in Makati, the franchise holder would spend for the upgrade, but the investment would be lower than the $1.5 million to $2 million we spent in one cafe in the US because things cost less here," he explained.

Singapore-based Hard Rock Cafe Holdings Co. holds the Philippine franchise along with at least a dozen other cafes in the region.

Dodds said the Makati upgrade would include refurbishing the cafe as well as beefing up the menu, modernizing the music system and purchasing more rock memorabilia.

"At 12 years, Hard Rock Cafe Manila is an old establishment," he said. "The idea is to make it a fresher experience (for our patrons) while keeping its unique character compared to any other hard Rock Cafe in the rest of the world."

Also, Dodds said the company was familiarizing itself with the tourism and gaming businesses in the country as part of a preliminary round of scouting for expansion projects in Asia.

"Our having a new shareholder has brought us more capital and is driving us toward faster expansion," he said. "That is why we are on an Asian tour, to look for opportunities."

Dodds was referring to The Seminole Tribe of Florida, which announced last December its $965-million acquisition of the Orlando-based Hard Rock International and related entities from The Rank Group Plc.

Headquartered in Hollywood, Florida, The Seminole Tribe of native Americans-which takes pride in being unconquered by the US government despite three vicious wars in the 1800s-is an autonomous government, with at least 90 percent of its budget derived from gaming revenues.

In March 2007, tribe leaders announced that the acquisition would provide diversification of the Seminole's business operations.

Also yesterday, James F. Allen, chair of Seminole Hard Rock Entertainment Inc., said in a separate interview the company embarked on an eight-city tour of Asia since it was aware of the "tremendous growth and opportunities in the hotel business" in the region.

The Hard Rock tour has gone to Shanghai, Macau and Hong Kong, and would proceed to Singapore, Bali (Indonesia), Seoul and Tokyo.

Allen, who is also The Seminole Tribe's CEO for gaming operations, said the company was also on the lookout for casino projects in the country.

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Clean Air 101

LIVING. ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

TALKING WITH GREEN ARchitecture advocate Robert Mirafuente is always a pleasant and educational time. Recently, we had a discussion about the advantages of having a naturally ventilated house over one that is centrally air-conditioned.

There are many benefits to reap from having your buildings designed with natural ventilation. In the city, where the air is not at all clean, air-conditioning has become a standard of our system. The prime reason, of course, is the great comfort that cool temperature brings. The second and equally important reason is that it keeps unclean air out.

However, according to Robert, keeping our windows closed due to air-conditioning may have an even worse effect on the quality of air we keep inside our homes. Think about it—it's the same stale air our family breathes day and night. Most air-conditioners recycle air in a given space. The filters can only clean air to a certain degree. The same air particles are just bounced around

CLEAN/ B2-2

Arch. Bernardo Fort-Brescia of Arquitectonica beside the Number One Rockwell's initial rendering which is now known to be the East & West Towers.

The marvel of an international partnership:

Number One Rockwell.

In the burgeoning age of contemporary architecture, PRSP (Pimentel, Rodriguez, Simbulan & Partners), a Pilipino architectural firm, and international partner, Arquitectonica managed to add a new twist in luxurious living in the plush landscapes of Rockwell Center—in the form of Number One Rockwell.

A place where sophistication and class dwell, Number One Rockwell puts a face to high-end, stylish condominiums. Bernardo Fort-Brescia, principal architect of Arquitectonica, gives a telling tale of the conceptualization, "The architecture for the Towers of Number One Rockwell starts from the function and context. A specific residential program had to be fitted onto a site and at the same time, a range of new and interesting residential products had to be developed." With this plan, the architects aimed to make the towers competitive in both the local and foreign market.

While drawing inspiration from everything distinctly Filipino and interestingly foreign, the architects behind Number One Rockwell did their part well in researching and analyzing design observations.

Being an international designer, Bernardo Fort-Brescia immersed himself in Philippine culture so as to make the design appropriate for Filipinos, as well as for foreigners looking for a second home. "One specific reference we took from the Philippines was the famous landmark in Ifugao—the Banaue rice terraces, which we incorporated into the roof of the zigzag tower."

Integrating Number One Rockwell in the already growing Rockwell community, making sure it would fit seamlessly in the design and style of the famed populace, posed as no challenge to them. Instead, the task of surpassing what Rockwell Land has previously done in the past was a tall order, specially since they are known for their bold and innovative strategies in residential developments.

Valerie Soliven, VP for Sales & Marketing of Rockwell Land Corporation, describes their design challenge and vision, "We had to provide an alternative approach to Loft units that accommodates the distinct and sophisticated standards of Rockwell living. Our vision was to come up with a solution that will yet again break grounds and eventually become the new benchmark of luxurious loft units."

Bringing to life a new approach in residential condominium design came about with the birth of the Z-loft unit, a pioneering design concept in the history of architecture in the Philippines.

"The Z-loft is a unique unit that has the luxury of a double-height foyer & living room area. The stairs that go up across the living room to the second level bedroom is an attractive sculptural accent that further emphasizes the ceiling height," enthused Alice Erfe, one of the esteemed interior designers of Number One Rockwell's model unit–the Glass House.

A first-of-its-kind design concept that maximizes the perks of condominium living, the Z-loft was developed in conjunction with the local architects and the clients. "The combination of unobstructed views with double-volume living area give the units a grand space and quality-day lighting," says David Zaballero, principal architect for Arquitectonica's Manila office. He adds, "For example, the zigzag is in response to the availability of view corridors around the site."

The asymmetry and fluid composition, as well as its distinctive stepping skyline, certainly give it its individuality from the other Rockwell developments. Finally, the contrast between the two tower shapes—one angular, one curvilinear—gives the composition a dynamic tension.

With the likes of Arquitectonica and PRSP working on Number One Rockwell, it is sure to be another monumental landmark in Philippine architectural design and style.

This photo was taken at the Glass House model unit across the Power Plant Mall.

Need to find yourself?

Find all the space you need at Number One Rockwell. Get your very own Z-loft, Loft or Flat before units run out.

Visit The Glass House model unit by the Power Plant Mall or call (632) 793-0088 or 403-0088. www.e-rockwell.com

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One Rockwell

East and West Towers

Clean Air 101

From page B2-I

the room. So if any harmful germs have been introduced, there they will stay.

Harmful chemicals

Robert reminds us that we have many chemicals inside the house that may emit harmful fumes, particularly in an enclosed space. These also tend to be in dense concentrations, such as insecticides, detergents, fresh paint, varnish and cooking gas.

Even furniture finishes, wood preservatives, cloth softeners and fabric preservatives cause emissions, especially coming from new pieces. The family likewise adds to the fumes in the room through hair spray, insect repellant, perfume, shoe, metal, and leather polish, and perhaps, cigarette smoke. From the garage, motor fumes could seep in and from the kitchen, refrigerators are culprits too. Even the air-conditioners are suspect because of the dust trapped in their air filters. There are likewise some plastics that emit unhealthy fumes when exposed to heat.

Dust accumulation from pillows, carpets, curtains, mattresses and foam add to the matters that make our air dirty. In addition, we bring in some degree of dirt and bacteria ourselves, not to mention the pets, both wanted and unwanted, that we may have. Remember, too, that there are other unseen living organisms that share the house with us. Dust mites, ants and other insects contribute to defiling the air we have in our homes.

Now, if you think that air-conditioning keeps unclean air out, think again. It may just be trapping unclean air in.

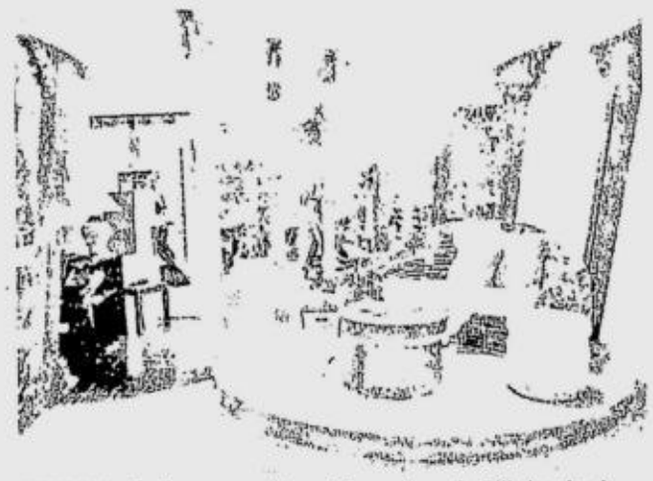
Naturally ventilated house

The easiest and most obvious solution is to start opening your windows more often. Cut back on the air-conditioning when you can. To speed up the air movement, you may switch on some fans or vents for a while. It is not only healthy, it also reduces electricity consumption.

Substantial savings on energy cost are the foremost advantage of a naturally ventilated house. But in so many words, we also agreed that maintaining natural ventilation minimizes the need for electricity, cuts down on gaseous emissions, and so ultimately, helps in the preservation of the ecological balance and alleviates global warming. Designers, with intelligent planning natural ventilation can actually help save the world!

* * *

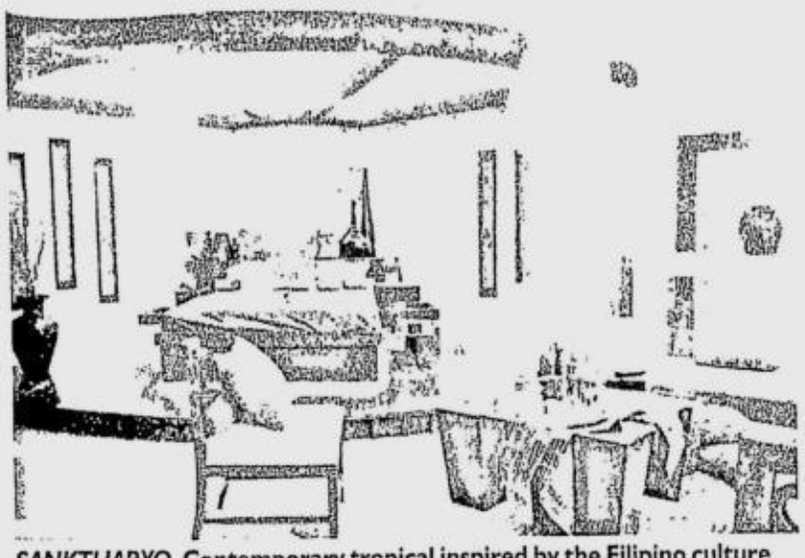
Please send your comments to marcosdeguzman@yahoo.com



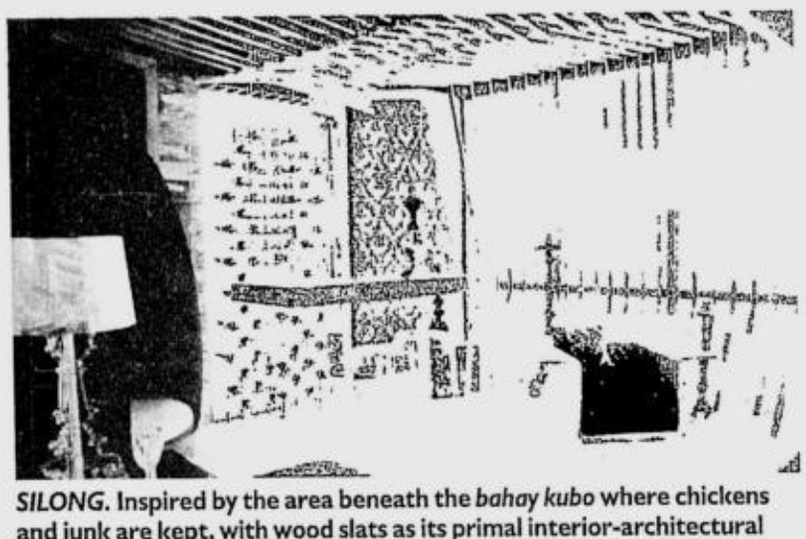
LILOK. An indoor paradise with a uniquely Filipino look, featuring floor to ceiling, Maranaw-inspired louvers, Filipino frosted glass and a specially designed abaca mesh warped sofa with the tribal inspired coffeetable.

PELIKULA. The look and the feel of the home theater capture the Filipino contemporary theme with the display of furniture made of Permacane, an innovative breakthrough in rattan finishes, mixed with other indigenous materials.

School recommends unique concepts in interior design



SANKTUARYO. Contemporary tropical inspired by the Filipino culture sums up this one-of-a-kind bedroom. The daring use of lavish textures all come together to create one sumptuous entirety with the mix of the finest indigenous materials



SILONG. Inspired by the area beneath the *bahay kubo* where chickens and junk are kept, with wood slats as its primal interior-architectural element. Filipino components are fused with European elements—bringing in a feel of ages past

THE PHILIPPINE SCHOOL OF INTERIOR Design (PSID) Advanced Class of 2007 presents unique concepts in interior design in their exhibition titled "Forty Filipino and Fabulous" ("F3") ongoing until Oct. 31, at the Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas corner Sedeno Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

Mounted in cooperation with the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP), "F3" celebrates PSID's 40th anniversary with an exhibit showcasing Philippine furniture integrated into masterfully designed and executed interior spaces.

Furniture pieces

Showcased in each booth at the exhibit are furniture pieces designed by the students and manufactured by a CFIP partner establishment, which guarantees the unique and intricate design, use of indigenous materials, and excellent craftsmanship of each piece. The designs promote Filipino furniture seamlessly incorporated into 19 designs for living areas, bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, bars, entertainment areas and even a nursery.

The booths are carefully planned, researched and executed to promote the ingenuity and creativity of Filipino-designed furniture pieces in fabulous interior settings, and to emphasize the importance of furniture as an indispensable element in creating interiors that work.

PSID is the country's premiere institution in interior design education, established in 1967 by engineer Agustin Cancio and Herminia Cancio-Layug, with the curriculum conceptualized by interior designer Edith Oliveros, architect Lor Calma and National Artist Napoleon Abueva.

Laeuna de Taal a family sanctuary

LOOK FORWARD TO WAKING UP IN your cozy home at Laeuna de Taal. Ideal as a weekend home as well as a primary residence, your family will love spending time in this 60-hectare lakeside resort community located along the Tagaytay Mountain Range. Your family will enjoy the best of both land and water as it offers crisp mountain air and breathtaking lakeside view.

Away from the hustle and bustle of the city, your family can take pleasure in the laidback atmosphere of Bahia. Meaning "by the bay," Bahia is an enclave that offers expansive lots perfect for big family gatherings and garden space. You also have an amazing view of Taal Lake outside your window so any time of day you can just put your feet up and gaze at nature's awesome spread.

If you prefer a smaller and more manageable lot cut, Orilla or "lakeside" is a perfect choice. It is a stretch of residential homes located near the Lake Club. With an average lot cut of 300 square meters, maintaining a home is a breeze.

Wide array of activities

Whichever you choose, you will always have a wide array of activities to enjoy at Laeuna de Taal. Hike on landscaped trails and open spaces, take a breather on overlooking view decks, or take a moment to calm your soul at the meditation gardens.

The kids can spend time fishing, camping with friends and exploring rope courses, bird sanctuary and bird watching platforms that they can easily find within the tranquil surroundings and lush greens.

Lake Club pleasures

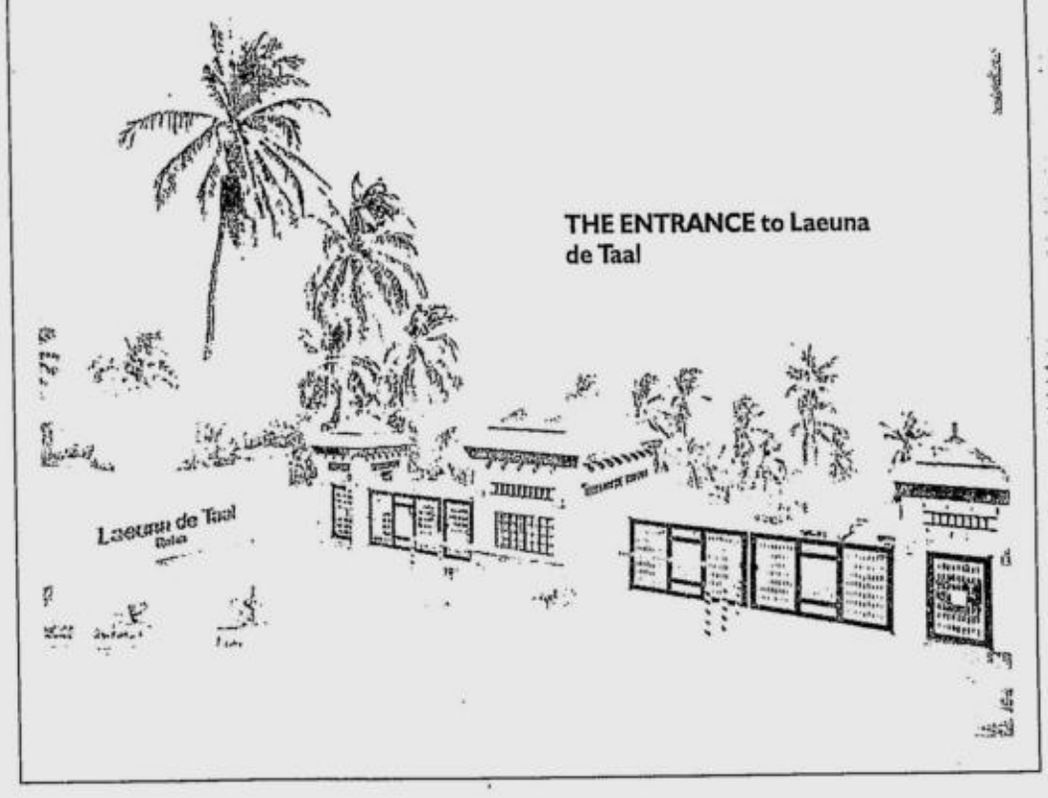
The Lake Club will offer a complete range of facilities and amenities like a lakeside restaurant, function rooms, library, destination spa, waterfront activity center, swimming pool, kiddie pool and playground, billiards and a boardwalk.

As a resident, you would have privileged access to the soon-to-be-opened Lake Club. Aside from enjoying the facilities, choosing to be a Laeuna resident right now will allow you to reap the appreciating value of your investments.

Laeuna de Taal is envisioned to be a lively and active community consisting of a Lake Club, residential lot clusters, overnight accommodation facilities and an organic market. It is an ideal family getaway.

Going to Laeuna de Taal is easy. Just a little over an hour's drive from Makati via Sta. Rosa will take you to nature's nurturing embrace, calming you with a fresh, cool breeze and a serene lakeside view.

What are you waiting for? Come and live the life of leisure in a sanctuary that is all your own, only at Laeuna de Taal.



THE ENTRANCE to Laeuna de Taal

ASR promotes urban luxury living through lifestyle hospitality management

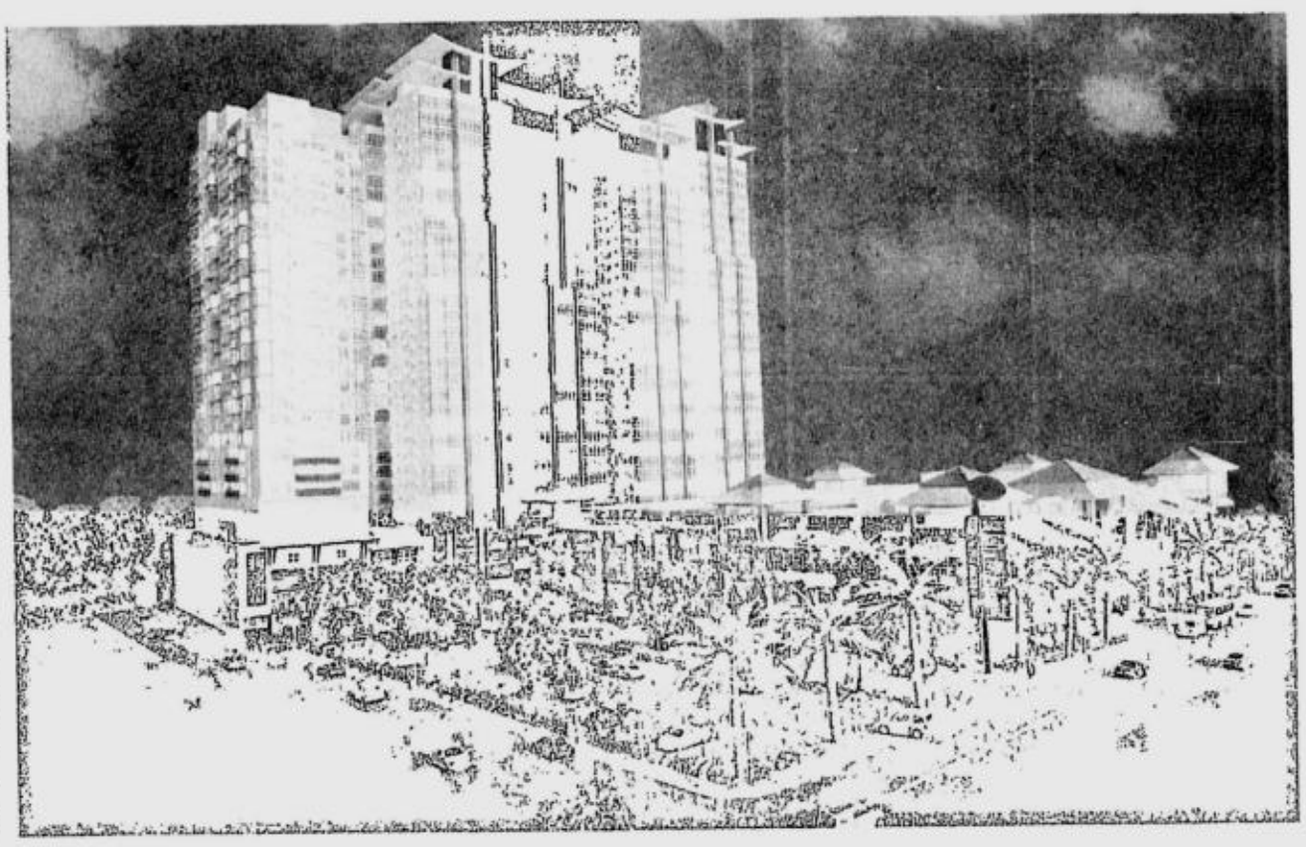
ANTEL SPA RESIDENCES—MAKATI'S fast-rising prime condominium with 5-star hotel services and amenities—is set to adopt "lifestyle hospitality management," a strategy that will innovatively combine the most effective philosophies, skills and strategies that will enhance the delivery of its in-house operations.

Through lifestyle hospitality management, ASR will be able to continuously redefine its hotel and residential features to further client satisfaction. As this multidisciplinary approach is expected to deviate from traditional hotel management practices, ASR is all set to provide "personalized" services, facilities and other related resources to convey ultimate luxury benefits to future tenants and guests.

Commitment

"As an upcoming prestigious location on Makati Avenue, Antel Spa Residences' commitment to provide premium condo living amid a hotel ambiance is further reinforced by its strict adherence to lifestyle hospitality management. By custom-fitting each amenity or service, ASR endows tenants and guests unique "owner privileges" that elevate the level of customer experience," ASR Director for Sales Miguel Gascon said.

One fine example on how lifestyle hospitality management works begins right at the reservation, where guests are given special treatment by being asked of their prerequisites, like the immediate provision of transportation through the concierge, or by arranging special requests such as packing or unpacking services, laundry and housekeeping even before their arrival.



MAKATI'S fast-rising condominium with 5-star hotel service and amenities

Also through the strategy, tenants can delightfully indulge in the many amenities and services found in the tower, like visiting the massage and spa parlors or his/her sauna rooms without worrying about reservations, as they can easily secure an appointment prior to their arrival through ASR.

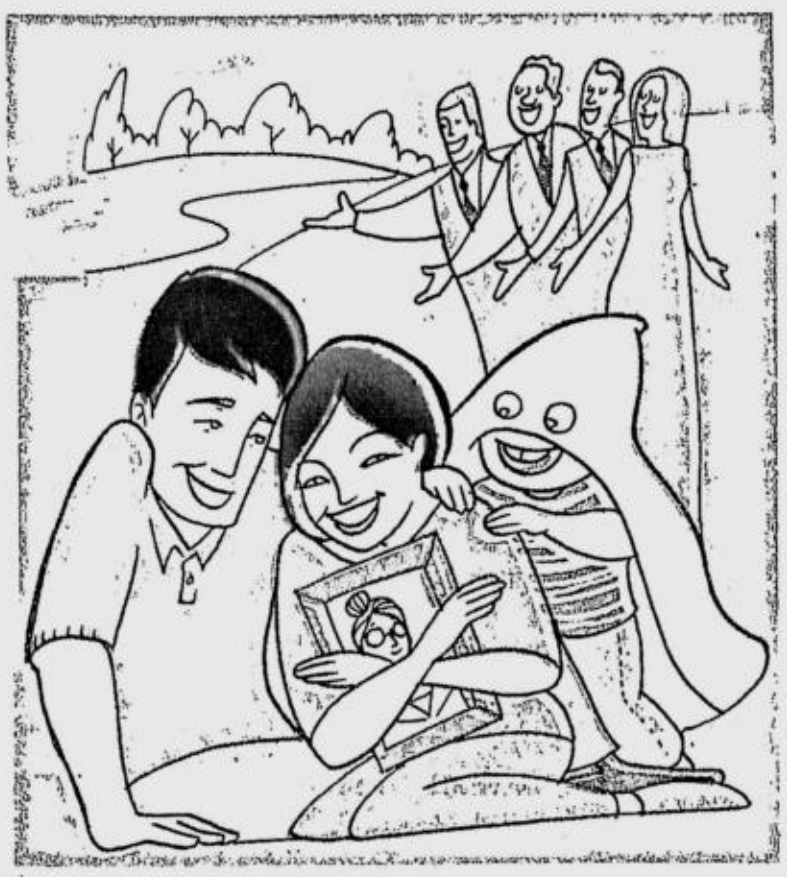
Grand ballroom

Another perfect illustration of how lifestyle hospitality management will be employed at ASR would be in its Grand Ballroom, a venue for elegant affairs and social events. The catering packages that come with the rental of the room will include gourmet menus prepared by ASR's culinary chefs and professional manning of the tower's skilled hotel staff.

THE HOUSEKEEPING department is ready to provide guests and visitors with gracious 24/7 customer service.

Aside from housing special celebrations, the Grand Ballroom will also serve not just an average function area because it will be imbued with stylish interiors, state-of-the-art equipment and lavish furnishings for guests' comfort.

"There are so many exciting experiences and privileges that await ASR future tenants and guests. Through our carefully implemented hospitality approach, the tower itself provides an irresistible come-on for people who are already tired of conventional and outdated condo and hotel services," Antel Land Holdings communications and marketing manager Renee Funtanilla said.



Celebrate life at The Heritage Park

AT THE HERITAGE PARK, THE MANAGEMENT goes to great lengths and spares no expense to ensure that you and your family's stay here will be well spent. From Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, rekindle fond and warm memories from the past and create new and unforgettable ones for the future.

Spend the day with family and friends fishing in Heritage Park's pristine lagoon. Brave the high winds across the park and go kite-flying on fields of verdant green. Watch your kids don the colors of the rainbow and reach new heights of creativity as they join face-painting activities.

Other activities

Come dressed in your best Halloween outfit for a night of kiddie games and fun. Other fun events include musical numbers from teen sensation Sam Concepcion and a film showing.

In this atmosphere of family enjoyment, the Heritage Park management has not forgotten the reason behind the celebrations, and that is to remember our dearly departed. It likewise requests everyone to participate in our Eucharistic Celebrations on All Saint's Day.

Endearing songs

Just as the day sets on Nov. 1, recollect fond memories as The New Minstrels pays tribute to our departed loved ones with their endearing songs. Everyone is also requested to participate in the candle-lighting ceremony at the Tea House of the Pavilion.

Two days of remembrance, two days of celebrating the lives of our dearly departed loved ones. Two days like no other, only at The Heritage Park.

Located in Fort Bonifacio, the 76-hectare memorial park is 5 minutes away from the Manila Golf Club and Manila Polo Club. It is accessible from three major thoroughfares, Edsa, via McKinley Road, South Superhighway via Lawton Avenue and Circumferential Road 5 (C5).

The Heritage Park is also a stone's throw away from the Global City and the Makati Commercial District.

From Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, be prepared for a totally different experience, only at The Heritage Park.

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Luxure Properties Breaks Ground

Luxure Properties and Development Corporation (LPDC), along with its marketing arm, Pan Asia Property Management, Inc., officially ushered in the LuxureVille lifestyle through a memorable groundbreaking ceremony held at LuxureVille's actual location along Matthew St., in Multinational Village, Moonwalk, Paranaque City.

Luxure Properties and Development Corporation (LPDC) is a world-class integrated property group that transforms a vision of quality living into innovative architectural and engineering concepts and property development. LPDC puts these creative concepts into reality through LuxureVille, its first and premier venture featuring a cluster of mid-rise condominiums that exude a unique contemporary tropical setting. Each condominium in the cluster is named after familiar tropical birds: Nightingale, Canary, Starling, Hummingbird, Toucan, Parakeet, and Gold Finch.

Graced by the honored officials of the city of Paranaque, spearheaded by Paranaque City Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr., and 2nd District of Paranaque Congressman Roilo Golez, the ceremonial groundbreaking was deemed to be the formal commencement of LPDC's first venture for LuxureVille, the Gold Finch condominiums, which shall set out the fresh and exciting lifestyle that LuxureVille offers.

The groundbreaking ceremony for GoldFinch was an important event for LPDC as it signifies that LuxureVille living is soon to be realized. LPDC was pleased to announce that GoldFinch posted a very encouraging sales performance after only a year since LuxureVille's official launch last year.

"LuxureVille is the fulfillment of that idea of home. Aside from being a premier mid-rise condo cluster project that lets you celebrate a life of independence, LuxureVille lets you bond with friends and family as it offers many opportunities for leisure and relaxation", said Ma. Fe Perez-Agudo, President of Luxure Properties Development Corporation.

Moreover, the ceremony was in commemoration of LPDC's established relations with the neighboring communities of LuxureVille and with the whole city of Paranaque. One of the highlights of the event was LPDC's donation of 2 units of Hyundai Porter to the Multinational Village Homeowners' Association, Inc. to assist them in communal activities. The whole city of Paranaque likewise recognizes LPDC's major contribution to the advancement of the city. More than an implication of its trust to the city's potential to be a progressive society, LPDC's investment has also opened many opportunities for the people such as new jobs and residential and business prospects.

Luxureville is a project of Luxure Properties and Development Corporation at 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. For inquiries, call 840-2930 / 840-2904 / 840-2809 or log on to www.luxureville.com

The comforts of free living

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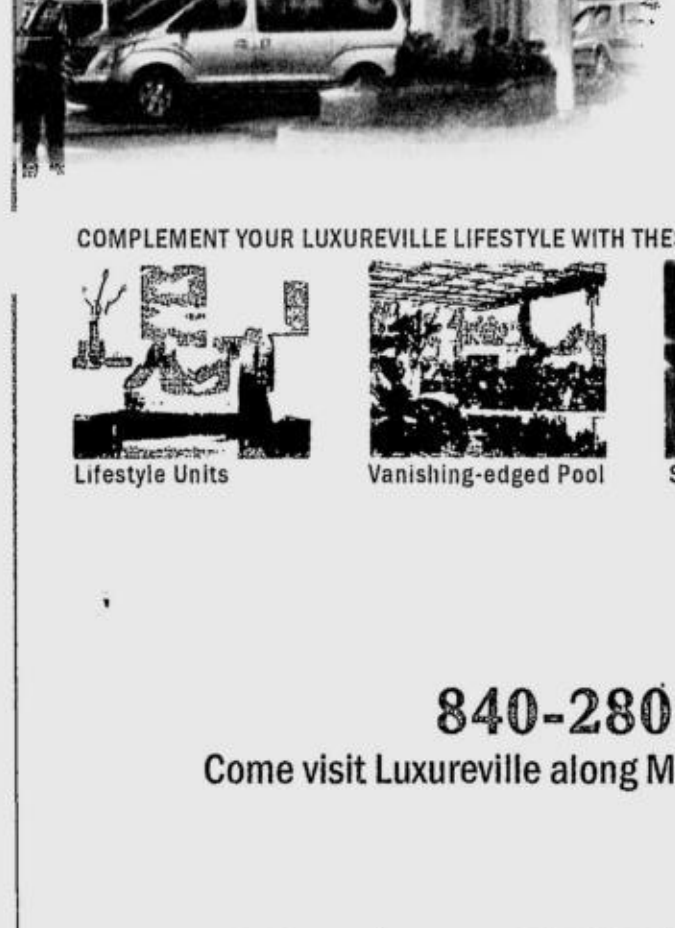

Simple joys are best shared in the comforts of a home you can call your own. Begin a life of independence nestled in the cozy luxuries of cheerful artistry and vibrant landscapes. Free living designed for new beginnings at LuxureVille.

Groundbreaking rites of the Goldfinch condominium this August means the LuxureVille lifestyle can be yours very soon! So make that move towards a life of comfort and true independence at LuxureVille. A place to call your own, a place easy to own.

COMPLEMENT YOUR LUXUREVILLE LIFESTYLE WITH THESE AMENITIES:

Lifestyle Units

Vanishing-edged Pool

Sky Garden

Clubhouse

Aviary

Garden Lobby

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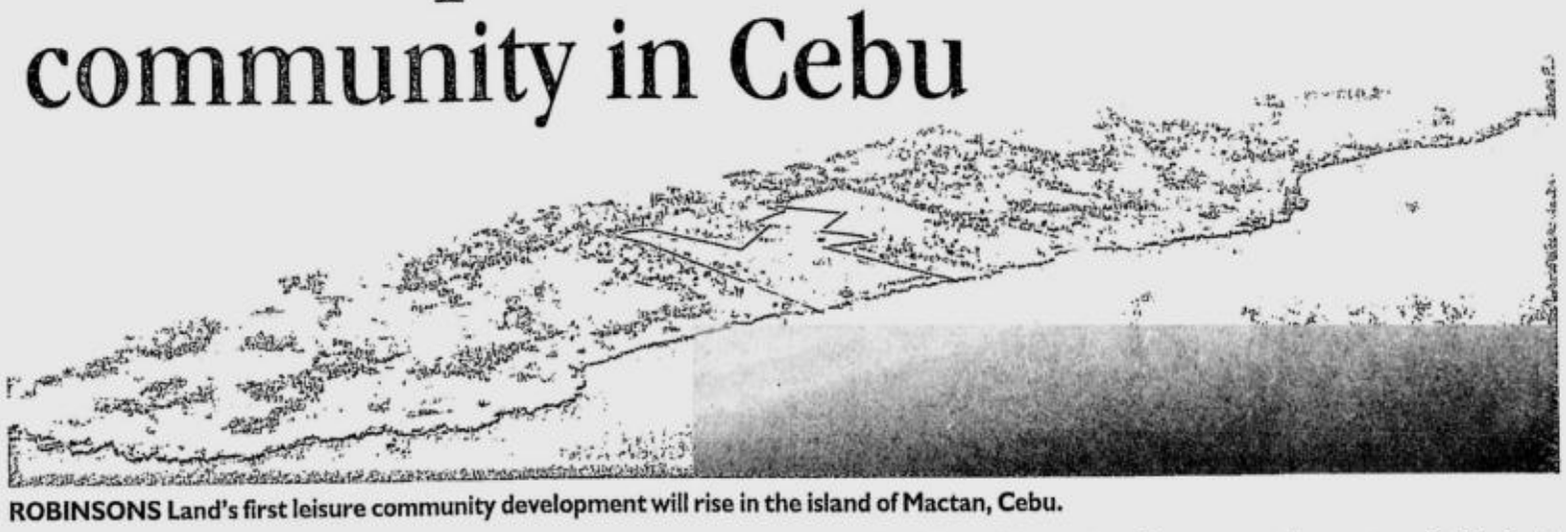
Robinsons Land to develop its first high-end leisure community in Cebu



ROBINSONS Land's first leisure community development will rise in the island of Mactan, Cebu.

ROBINSONS LAND CORP. EXpands its robust property portfolio across the country as it disclosed plans to develop the first masterplanned condo-resort community in Mactan, Cebu.

The country's second largest diversified real estate company recently acquired a prime 5-hectare property with a 170-meter beach front in Punta Engaño district in Mactan, Cebu. It will design the prime property as its first leisure community development.

Tourism hub of the South

Cebu's tourism potential and its being the investors' preferred headquarters in Southern Philippines add to Robinsons Land's high hopes for its new project and the region itself.

The historic province of Cebu, touted as the gateway to two-thirds of the country's major islands, has been recording upbeat tourism figures lately. Total foreign arrivals and domestic travels in the first half of the year show substantial growth of 20 percent compared to last year's records for the same period. The first six months of the year saw Koreans topping the island's foreign guest list, followed by the Japanese and the Americans.

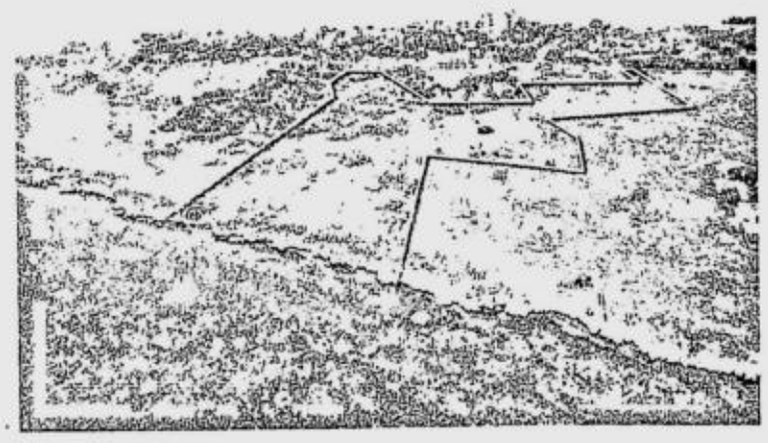
Similarly, the local government has recognized Cebu's tourism potential and has been actively formulating marketing strategies to achieve targets for its 5-year tourism plan, such as tourism missions in Europe. It is also counting on the emerging markets of China, Russia, India and fellow Asean countries to boost its foreign arrivals.

Business destination

Cebu has also been regarded as a premier business destination in the South, having been part of the Philippine Cyber Corridor masterplan that runs through Baguio, Manila and Davao. The said vision crafted by the national government aimed to boost telecommunications and technology, and included empowering regions to provide information technology-related services.

Multinational IT firms and contact centers have likewise found their new homes in Cebu in the recent years, thereby attracting talents also from its neighboring provinces. The development of Cebu's business parks also serves as a testament to the business-friendly environment of Cebu.

Robinsons Land's top executives are confident that the organization is ready to maximize the company's expertise in developing mixed-use communities in promising areas outside Metro Manila. The abounding possibilities in Cebu affirm Robinsons Land's move to explore opportunities in the Queen City of the South.



Homegrown business

Mixed-use communities, composed of hospitality and residential developments, have been Robinsons Land's strength. President and Chief Operating Officer Frederick D. Go notes, "Robinsons Land has gained its formidable status and esteemed name with its strategically located residential condominiums, hotels and commercial centers that are of world-class quality. Having accomplished this feat, we will now build a landmark five-star condo-resort project in Cebu."

Go cites that Robinsons Land's mother company, JG Summit Holdings Inc., traces its roots to Cebu, as founder John Gokongwei Jr. began his post-war trading business in his hometown. The humble trading activity ventured into by the young Gokongwei in local sailboats over five decades ago has paved the way for the birth of J.G. Summit Holdings, which is now among the Philippines' largest conglomerates.

It holds diverse interests in branded consumer foods, agro-industrial and commodity food products, textile, telecommunications, petrochemicals, air transportation and financial services. This same entrepreneurial spirit of Gokongwei has eventually led him to be one of the country's only seven billionaires.

Among most profitable

Today, Robinsons Land is among the most profitable businesses of J.G. Summit Holdings, with its 18 malls, 23 residential subdivisions, 22 residential condominiums, 6 office buildings and 4 hotels. It has pioneered several developments in key cities, where it launched its other notable projects such as Galleria Regency, East of Galleria, The Trion Towers, Fifth Avenue Place, Adriatico Residences and One Gateway Place.

With the timely completion and delivery of its residential condominium projects, Robinsons Land remains today's property developer of choice of investors and end-users, both local and foreign alike. On the other hand, its status as the top office landlord of business process outsourcers and multinational firms is credited to its development of centrally located office buildings across the metropolis.

Your home is your sanctuary at Raya Garden Condominium

THE OPEN HOUSE HELD RECENTly at Raya Gardens Condominium started with a solemn Sunday Mass at the clubhouse, followed by a sumptuous Southeast Asian-inspired brunch buffet. Balinese dancers added spice to the event as they provided a series of entertaining performances in the open pavilion. On the other end, kids and kids at heart enjoyed the day as they got henna tattoos from expert hands.

Strategically located LCD flat screens gave the guests, prospective buyers, and enthusiastic sellers alike an opportunity to view the new Raya Garden Audio Visual Presentation. What's more, DMCI Homes introduced another breakthrough innovative idea as guests and sellers had a chance to experience firsthand passing through the actual hotel-like lobby with its elegant Balinese interior to the airy atrium area of the first five floors of Jakarta Tower and view the actual turnover units with the building still being constructed.

ALL THE BUILDINGS feature single-loaded corridors and central garden atriums that allow natural light and air to enter and flow freely within the buildings.

Accessible

Located off the West Service Road, just outside the South Luzon Expressway in Merville, Parañaque City, the Raya Garden Condominiums is near the Makati Central Business District and the emerging Bonifacio Global City—two of the country's major business districts. With its proximity to major thoroughfares such as Edsa and C5, it is accessible through 24-hour public transportation.

You don't have to go through the inconvenience of the regular-day hassles of traffic congestions to and from work.

And once you enter its grand entrance gate, you can just leave the accumulated stress at work behind. Here, you can unwind and relax in a cozy atmosphere of tranquility and calm.

THE INFINITY pool is for everyone to enjoy.

Buildings

With its Balinese-inspired architecture, Raya Garden's two high-rise towers (Jakarta and Surabaya) and its three completed mid-rise buildings (Bali, Bandung and Bogor) stand like an oasis of peace amid the chaotic urban environment. All its buildings feature single-loaded corridors and central garden atriums that allow natural light and air to enter and flow freely within the buildings.

Raya Garden's two new 15-story towers (Jakarta and Surabaya) offer spectacular views of the Makati skyline and the beautiful Manila Bay sunset which can be experienced right in your very own balconies. Jakarta and Surabaya towers both offer a fine variety mix of two-bedroom standard (48 sq m), two-bedroom special (63.5 sq m) and three-bedroom tandem units (96 sq m) while the studio units (24 sq m) are offered exclusively at the Surabaya Tower.

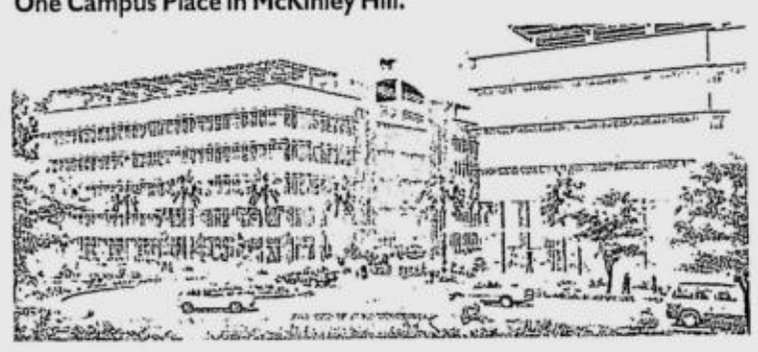
WITH ITS Balinese-inspired architecture, Raya Garden Condominium stands like an oasis of peace amid the chaotic urban environment.

Condo living

Residents can expect safe and hassle-free condominium living, with DMCI Home's own in-house property management team to take care of the residents' daily needs. DMCI Homes is the country's first triple-A builder/developer.

Backed by 50 years of experience in building prominent landmarks in the country such as the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Rockwell Center and Ayala Tower One, DMCI Homes now applies the same expertise and world-class standards in building first-class residences that are within the reach of young, middle-income and upwardly mobile urban families.

JDBEC president Juanchito Bernardo (left) joins Megaworld VP-Property Management Rigoberto Santos and FVP-Business Development Jericho Go (right) to formally top off One Campus Place in McKinley Hill.



ONE Campus Place is the first campus-type facility for BPO firms at McKinley Hill Cyberpark.

Megaworld tops off One Campus Place

LEADING RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS process outsourcing (BPO) office condominiums developer Megaworld Corp. continues to deliver on its promise to provide novel concepts in BPO facility design by topping off recently One Campus Place, one of McKinley Hill's major developments.

The 6-story, twin-building One Campus Place is being built on a one-hectare complex within McKinley Hill Cyberpark, with each tower providing 10,600 square meters of office space. The One Campus Place buildings have larger floor plates, stainless-steel railings and tile-finished marble floors. The design also encourages people to choose the healthier option of taking the stairs.

Never mind the foot traffic, as anyone can go along with up to three friends side by side as they traverse the wide stairwells. In addition, the facility has a park-like interior design complemented by landscaped gardens and trees. This replaces the obsolete and tiring look of gray concrete set on even more concrete.

On schedule

Megaworld FVP Jericho Go proudly announced, "Construction of One Campus Place is on schedule. By the time a good number of existing BPO firms reach the end of their lease contracts, we'll have our new project ready for them." The two towers are set for completion next year.

Not only is One Campus Place priced lower than Makati CBD office spaces, the campus-style concept reduces the stress that workers feel when getting inside skyscrapers. One Campus Place's novel, low-rise concept offers literally more breathing room for the workers who will spend their days and nights there.

Go explained further: "We all know how fast the pace of BPO work is, and One Campus Place's design helps by giving tenants and workers the look and feel of a modern workplace. No more taking a break by looking out of building windows just to see more buildings. No more long elevator rides and longer waiting. Instead of seeing concrete all around, people can actually go outside and see and experience lush greenery around them. For tired workers, it's definitely going to be a welcome sight."

Better security

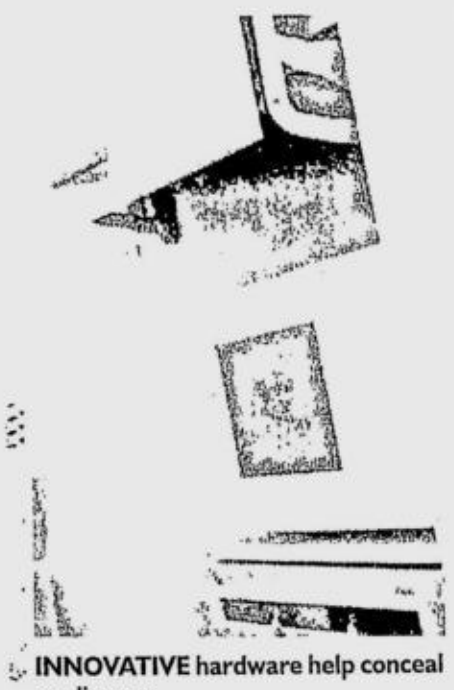
Aside from the eye candy, a low-density, low-rise facility like the One Campus Place will also afford BPO companies better security and tighter control of people traffic. This shields the tenant's employees from gallivanting recruiters prevalent in high-rises where several companies converge.

For Megaworld, this addresses the problem of rampant poaching that many companies in high-rise, congested locations have to endure. Companies can even enhance staff retention by providing living accommodations at Woodridge Residences—also a part of McKinley Hill.

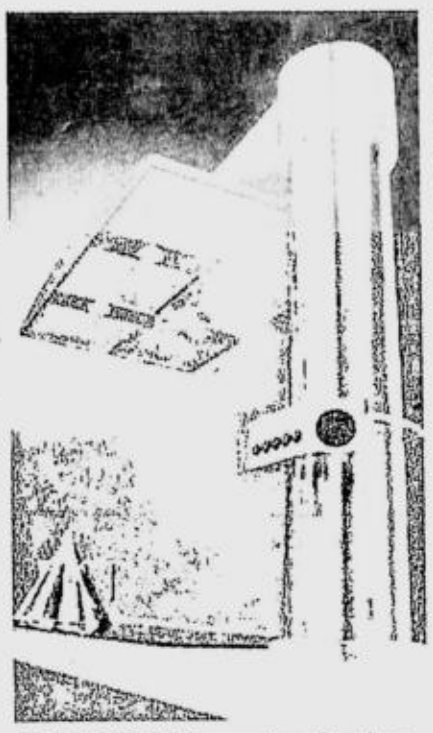
Lessees of One Campus Place, being a key component of McKinley Hill and the Fort Bonifacio development, automatically receive numerous tax and investment incentives given by the Phillipine Economic Zone Authority (Peza).

Interested BPO locators may inquire about One Campus Place at McKinley Hill Cyberpark by calling (02) 912-0708, sending an e-mail to jcespinosa@megaworldcorp.com, or checking out www.megaworldcorp.com.

Revolutionizing the kitchen



INNOVATIVE hardware help conceal appliances.



A DECORATIVE range hood makes for an interesting feature.

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Asuncion

EVERY SATURDAY, MY 10-YEAR-old daughter Anna reminds me that it's "Iron Chef" night! Yes, the reality show that features celebrity chefs racing to create their own gastronomic masterpieces from a given set of ingredients. Aside from our interest in the mouth-watering creations, we love to watch the chefs with their team of sous chefs, mill around their professionally designed kitchens and equipment.

For my daughter and myself, it is one of our bonding moments, where we can be virtually there to take pleasure from the whole ritualistic process of preparing and enjoying food.

Kitchen architecture has evolved immeasurably. From the stereotyped linear monolithic block, it has advanced to being multifaceted, with varying heights, dimensions, features and finishes.

Nowadays, kitchens are lit from above, from under, and even from within. Materials have gone from mere paint, to laminates, solid surfaces and various metals. Counters are floor mounted, hung on walls and even suspended from ceilings.

Center of social activity

The kitchen has certainly moved forward in many ways, but despite its many changes, it remains to be center of social activity. In prehistoric times, communities gathered around a common fire for their ritual cookery and consumption.

Today, we still have the same relationship with the food we eat and the places where we enjoy them. Friends get together over a drink or over dinner. In homes, the breakfast nook, dining room and the clean kitchen are still the places where a family comes together to share a meal peppered with the stories of their day.

In the workplace, the pantry is the place to prepare a snack and share steaming workplace gossip over a cup of coffee. Snacks served during meetings break formality and help harmonize a group into a common goal.

Becoming woes of the past

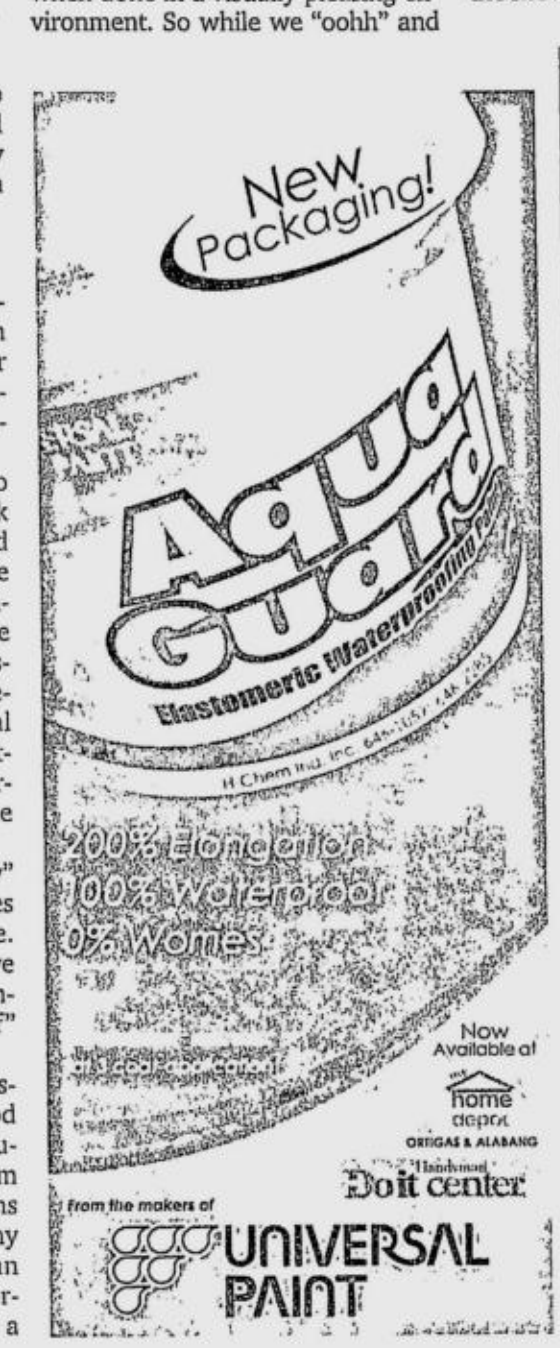
Thanks to the advanced technology of kitchen equipment, modern kitchens can now extend into other spaces. Food odor and noisily humming equipment are slowly becoming problems of the past.

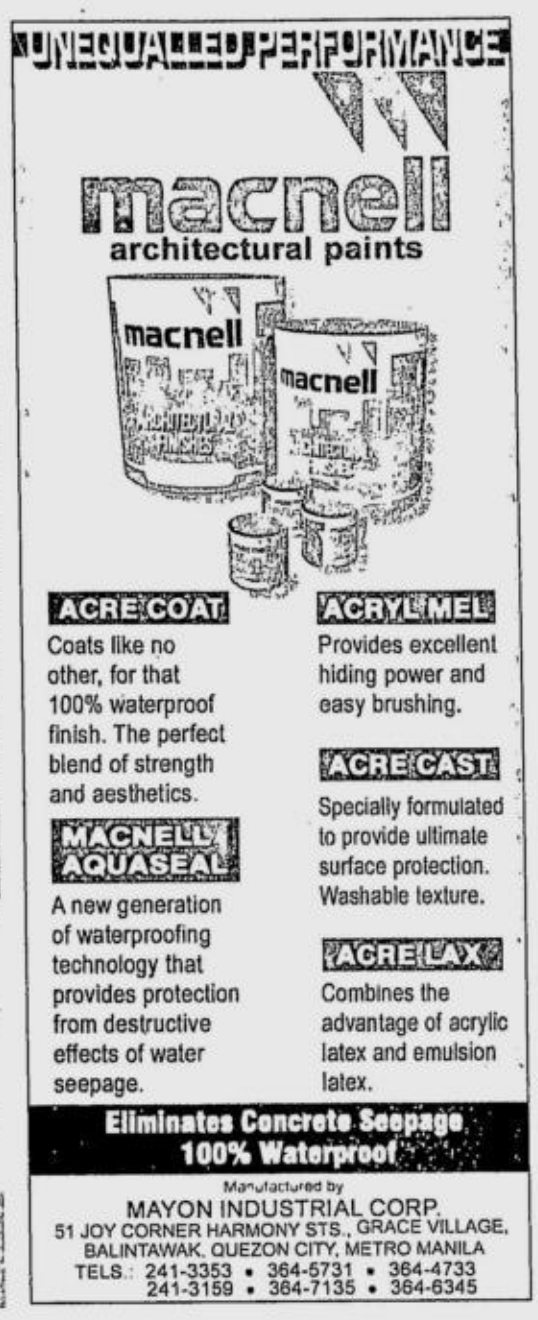
Kitchens these days stretch into living spaces and integrate work and social functions within. And why not, when equipment have evolved into stunning pieces of industrial art! Kitchen islands have become more decorative and usable. Pantry counters too have become both visual and functional hubs that hold telephones, computers and a gamut of fancy do-it-yourself mini appliances like coffee makers, toasters and juicers.

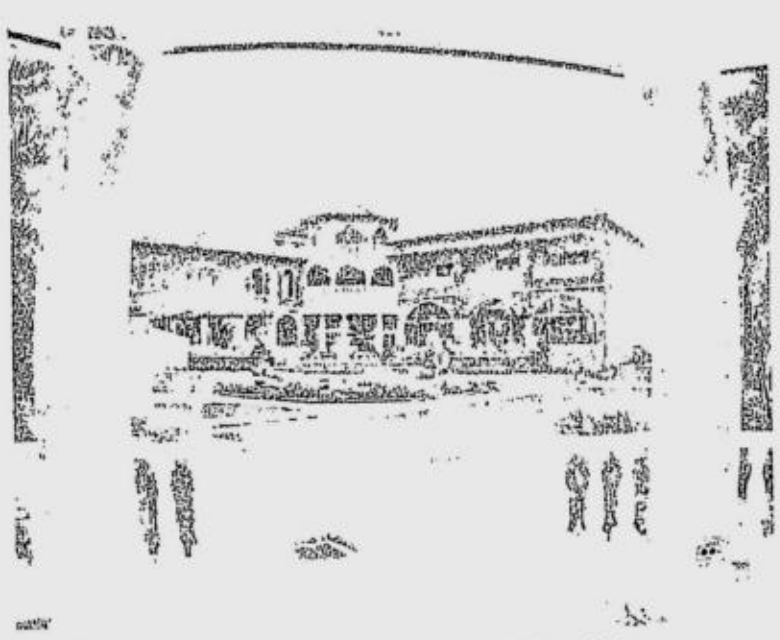
In restaurants, open or "show" kitchens are hip and are oftentimes the focal point of a dining space. Cooking and food preparation have become performances in themselves, sort of like the "Iron Chef" live, but sans the competition.

I enjoy strolling through the assembly of serving tables and food stations at buffet meals in restaurants, and get my cheap thrills from seeing the gastronomic concoctions brought together right before my very eyes. Unlike the utilitarian "Iron Chef" kitchen, these performances are executed against a backdrop of decorative metals, veneers, fancy tabletops and dramatic cookware and serving dishes.

Cooking is indeed an art, and so much more of a pleasure to perform when done in a visually-pleasing environment. So while we "oohh" and "ahh" over the modern convection ovens, range hoods and refrigerators, we look forward to cooking within our nonvirtual, yet chic and sleek kitchen. Even with the TV shut off, the show goes on!







MONTE di Portofino presents a grand vista of life and leisure.

Celebrating the grand Italian life at Monte di Portofino

SOMEWHERE SOUTH OF MANILA, life is grand on every turn. The rustic Tuscan idyll is your panorama. La dolce vita is your daily mantra. Enter the gates of Portofino, a sprawling 300-hectare landscape that celebrates Mediterranean summers, a glass of Chianti in the courtyard and the warmth of home with family and friends.

Such a lush life is beautifully captured by maverick master developer Brittany Corp., a proud member of Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc., the country's largest home builder, in the Monte di Portofino grand clubhouse in Portofino Heights. Monte di Portofino can easily be likened to a luxurious Tuscan villa or a countryside palazzo.

For that rustic Italian feel, Recio+Casas used deep and passionate colors, distressed paint finish, natural stones and intricate wrought iron details. The clubhouse also has a majestic cupola or dome coupled with fountains and other water features.

Facilities, amenities

This expansive 1,585-square-meter floor area has a multi-use main ballroom, boardroom facilities, three function rooms, gym, badminton court, game room, an Italian curio shop and an al fresco dining area aptly named Parco di Medici.

Portofino residents can splash in style in Monte di Portofino's lap pool and children's pool, and hang out at the adjacent gazebo and colonnade. The surrounding grounds feature a basketball and tennis court. Soon to be available is the Portofino Riverpark which includes a mini amphitheater, a scenic jogging trail, courtyards, fountains and lush gardens.

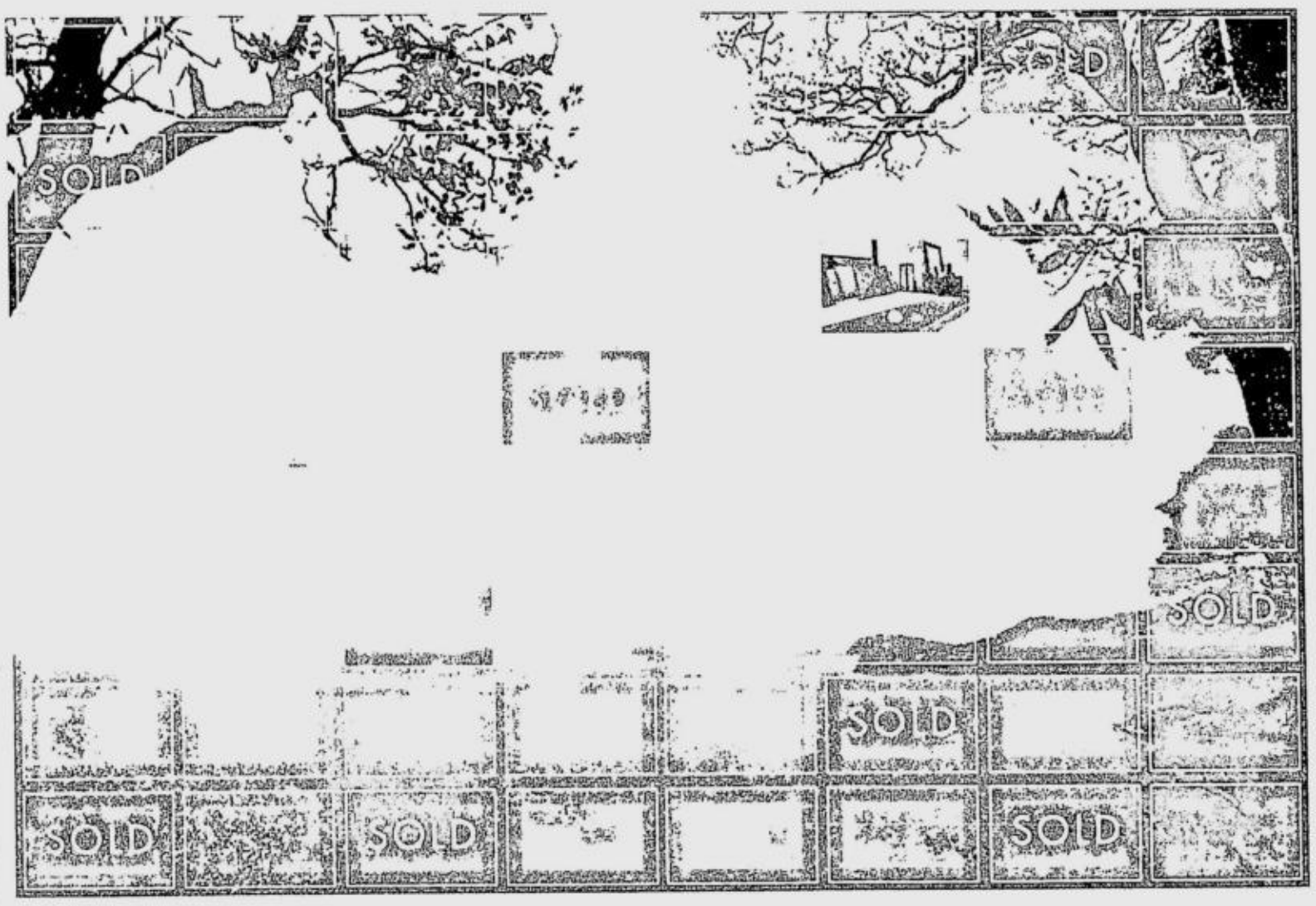
Maverick realty developer

Brittany is a maverick real estate developer of innovative and creative lifescapes. Its eclectic and vibrant portfolio includes Brittany Bay, CrossWinds, Portofino, The Islands, Mosaic at Greenbelt, and Avant at The Fort.

With masterplanned developments steeped in character, stylistic and thematic appeal, rich architectural details and excellent craftsmanship, it successfully and continuously reinvents the local real estate landscape.

For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

SMASH and rally with friends at the second floor badminton court.



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A GRAND Italian-inspired residence at Fortezza in Cabuyao, Laguna.

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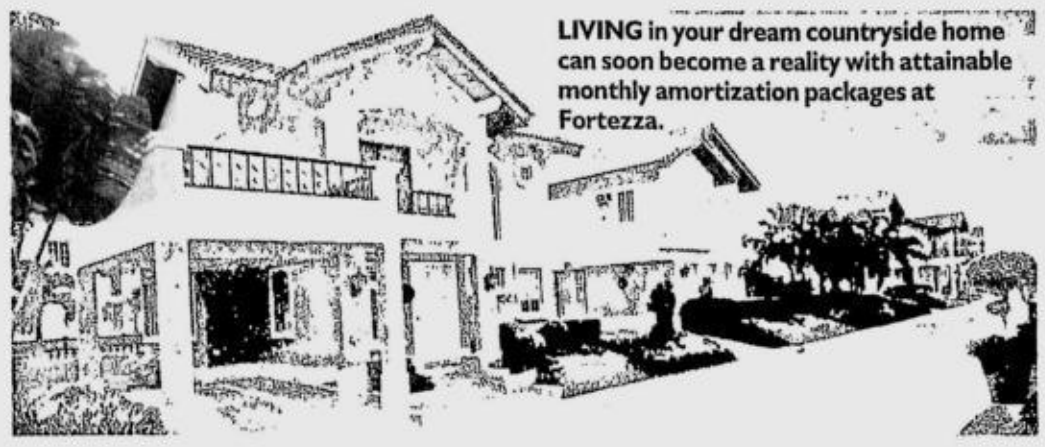
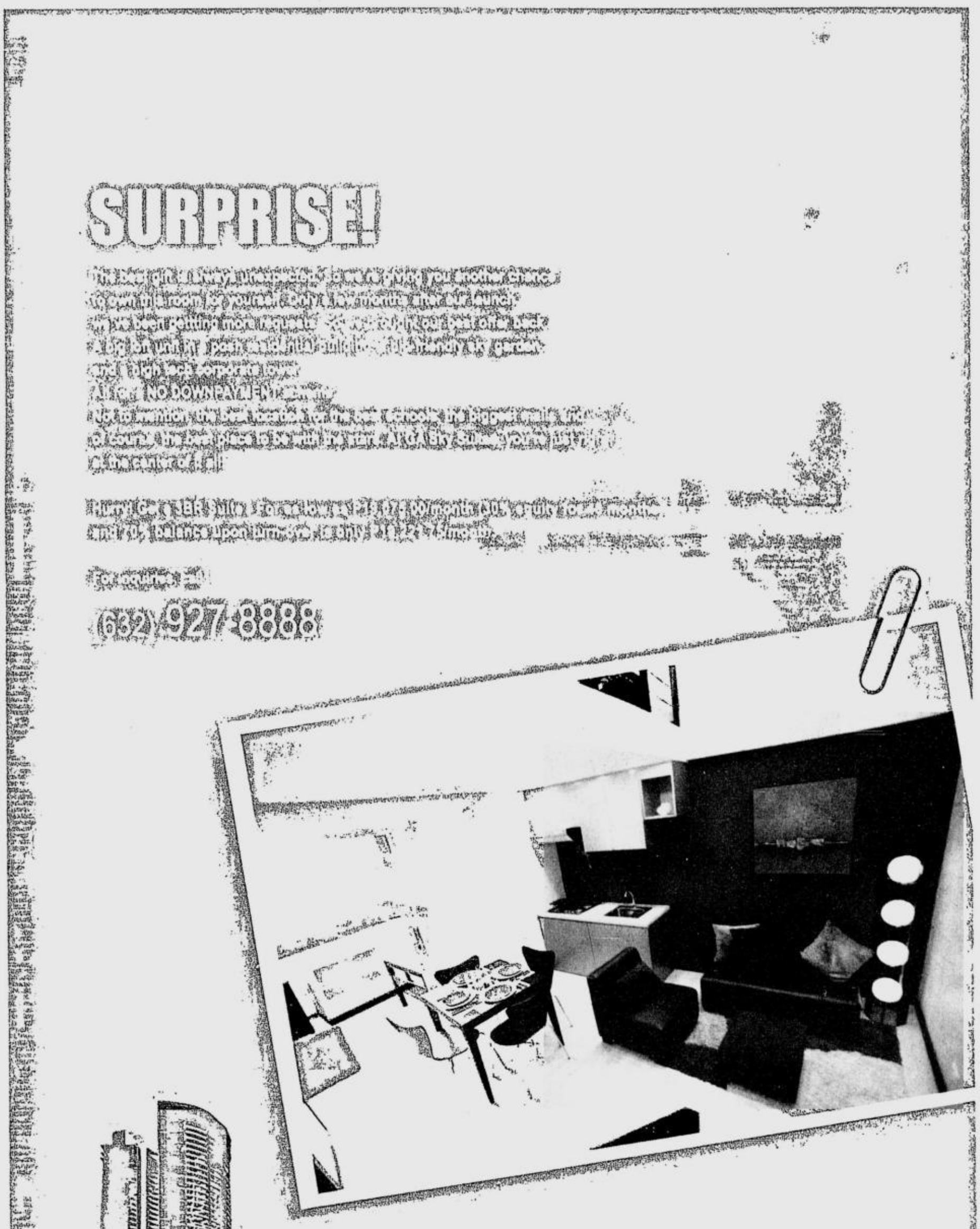


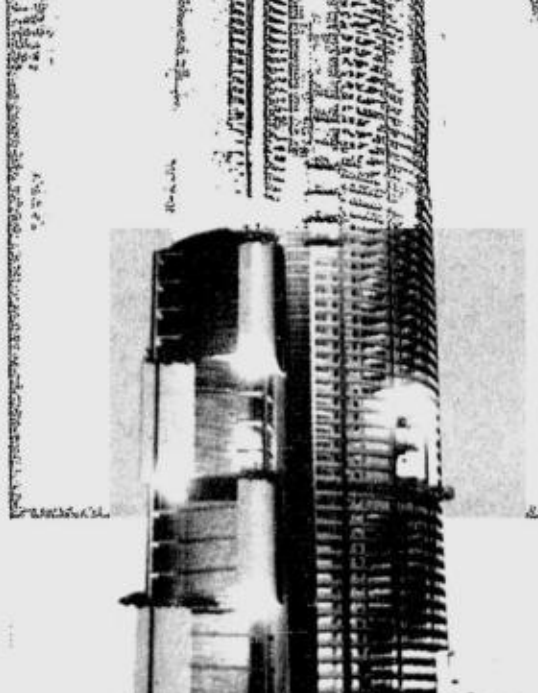
LIVING in your dream countryside home can soon become a reality with attainable monthly amortization packages at Fortezza.

CROWNASIA'S FORTEZZA

Attainable grand, countryside homes

The enclave offers its latest quaint Italian-inspired homes: Daniella and Calista,





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MAJOR PARTS OF THE metropolis are now depleted of trees which provide fresh air among the heavy vehicular pollution and have become a crowded concrete jungle. Making thousands of Filipinos' dreams to possess their very own home in an area ideal for raising their family a reality has been CrownAsia's aspiration behind each of its developments across Mega Manila.

A proud affiliate of Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc., CrownAsia is the country's pioneer developer of masterplanned, themed enclaves with befitting style while remaining within the reach of Filipino families. Vista Land is the Philippines' largest homebuilder offering homes for all income segments and catering to different lifestyles across the country.

Booming economy

The Laguna countryside now boasts a booming economy while generous portions of agricultural lands are preserved which continuously provide fresh air and splendid vistas. Away from the hustle and bustle of the metro, CrownAsia has chosen the heart of Cabuyao, Laguna to be the home of its full-blown residential community, Fortezza.

The enclave offers its latest quaint Italian-inspired homes: Daniella and Calista, with floor areas of 81 and 64 square meters, respectively. The intricate design of these models maximized precious space to produce three bedrooms, a family area, balcony and provisions for a carport.

More attainable goal

Now, residing in the grand 15-hectare community of Fortezza turns into a more attainable goal with a monthly amortization package of as low as P10,039 now available, bringing you closer to your dream of owning a home and lot in a secure, serene and idyllic countryside community.

Future residents can also choose among the existing five model homes with floor areas beginning at 63 to 141 sq m on lots ranging from 110 to 132 sq m. Phase 1 spans over seven hectares and has 288 lots to allow families to tailor-fit their Italian-inspired residence to address specific living requirements. Phase 2 extends seven hectares with more than 350 home and lot packages available.

Amenities, facilities

It boasts first-class amenities and facilities such as a clubhouse, and basketball and tennis courts. Children can frolic in the playpark or around the grounds of Fortezza with parents having the peace of mind about their welfare with the exclusive community's round-the-clock security. Landscaped parks, picnic and promenade areas, and wide pathways are found around the enclave for leisurely walks while enjoying a view of Mt. Makiling. Tagaytay and the beaches of Batangas are also nearby.

Children can get the best education from top institutions nearby like the Brent, Don Bosco, St. Scholastica and De La Salle University. A number of commercial complexes are also found in Laguna like SM Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Sta. Rosa, Walter Mart, Rustan's, and Paseo de Sta. Rosa.

With the strategic location of Fortezza just right off the Cabuyao exit the business and commercial districts in the metropolis can easily be reached, while one can get to and from Alabang in 15 minutes. For interested parties, call 871-3882 and 873-8412, or log on to www.crownasia.com.ph.

FLY WITH SUPER ▶▶

Pilot: Pam Pastor · Co-Pilot: Katrina A. Holigores First Officers: Tals Diaz, James Gabrillo, Wanggo Gallaga, Juana Manahan, Paolo Reyes · Air Traffic Controller: Abel Ulanday · Cabin Crew: Belen Belesario, L.A. Mistades · Ground Control: Me-ann Ayos, Rissa Camongol, Lilie Lazaro

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Super Scoop: The new Rivermaya revealed

The River Ran Through Him

COVER PHOTO BY JUJIIN SAMONTE
SPECIAL THANKS TO LIZZA NAKPIL

By Wanggo Gallaga
Photos by Jujiin Samonte

THROUGH THE ceaseless drizzle and heavy traffic, I made my way from Makati to Music Museum with the hopes of getting there on time. Rivermaya was the winner of their televised competition, "Bagong Liwanag," on who would be the latest member of one of the Philippines' most influential rock bands. I was a little upset they didn't ask me. After all, I found myself mentioned on the news, on "24 Oras" of all things, because my little stint as a ghost on the music video of "Sabihin" by Zelle had people mistaking me for the former front man of the band. I would have joined the search except I can't sing.

The show began with a nod to American Idol. The 13 finalists walked down the aisles singing the new Rivermaya single "Sayang," penned by bassist Japs Sergio. And then afterwards, it was one long musical tribute to the band. Imago goes up on stage to sing two of their own hits before Aia admits to being extremely nervous. The band begins to play and Aia sings "Hinahanap Kita." The crowd eats it up. Sandwich follows with Raimund Marasigan strutting around the stage, despite a short microphone wire, like a true rocker. He rocked it on Rivermaya's "Faithless." More bands came out to sing their respects—Spongecola, Stonefree, Callalily and the Dawn.

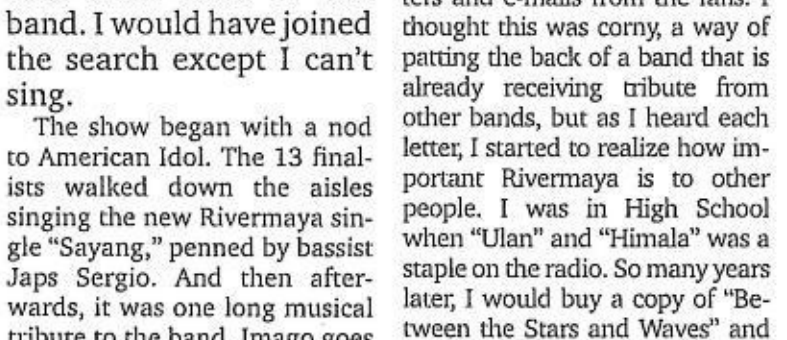
On my seat, I was extremely bothered by this rather large girl in pink and wearing glasses called Stacy who was obviously a fan of the bands but refused to sit still. She kept jostling over to speak to her friends, bumping me at my favorite parts: when the singers would start to belt. She talked loud, mostly during The Dawn which really pissed me off. You just don't talk over The Dawn! I wanted to hit her but I kept my eyes on the stage. It dawned on me, right at the moment I lifted my clenched fist that Rivermaya, more than the band, was really about their music. Their songs, covered by other equally great bands, held their own, be it a song from "Trip" or the more recent "Liwanag sa Dilim." The songs are entities of their own.

Revelations

In-between performances, the show's hosts would read off letters and e-mails from the fans. I thought this was corny, a way of patting the back of a band that is already receiving tribute from other bands, but as I heard each letter, I started to realize how important Rivermaya is to other people. I was in High School when "Ulan" and "Himala" was a staple on the radio. So many years later, I would buy a copy of "Between the Stars and Waves" and "Liwanag Sa Dilim," and with my own hard-earn cash and not from my allowance, mind you. I was all grown up now.

Prior to the unveiling, the crowd witnessed the last performance of Rivermaya as a trio. Japs sang lead on "Sugal ng Kapalaran," a hard-rocking number with the boys on fifth gear. Mark Escueta sang lead and played guitar on "Closer." "Alone" is Mike El-

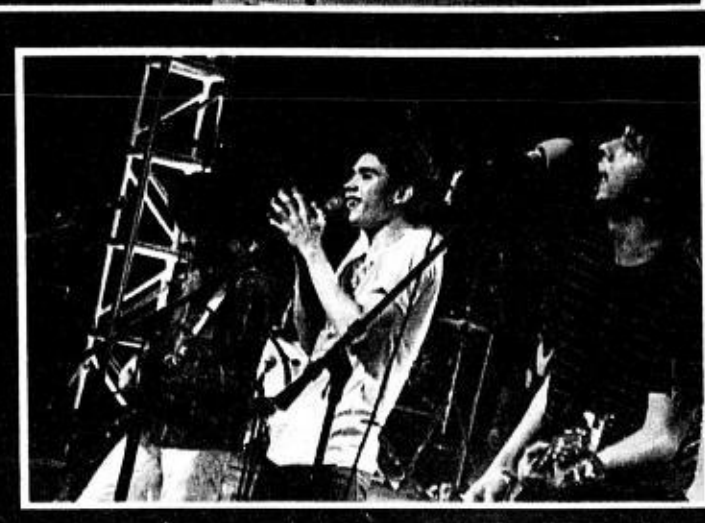
THE RIVER/ C2



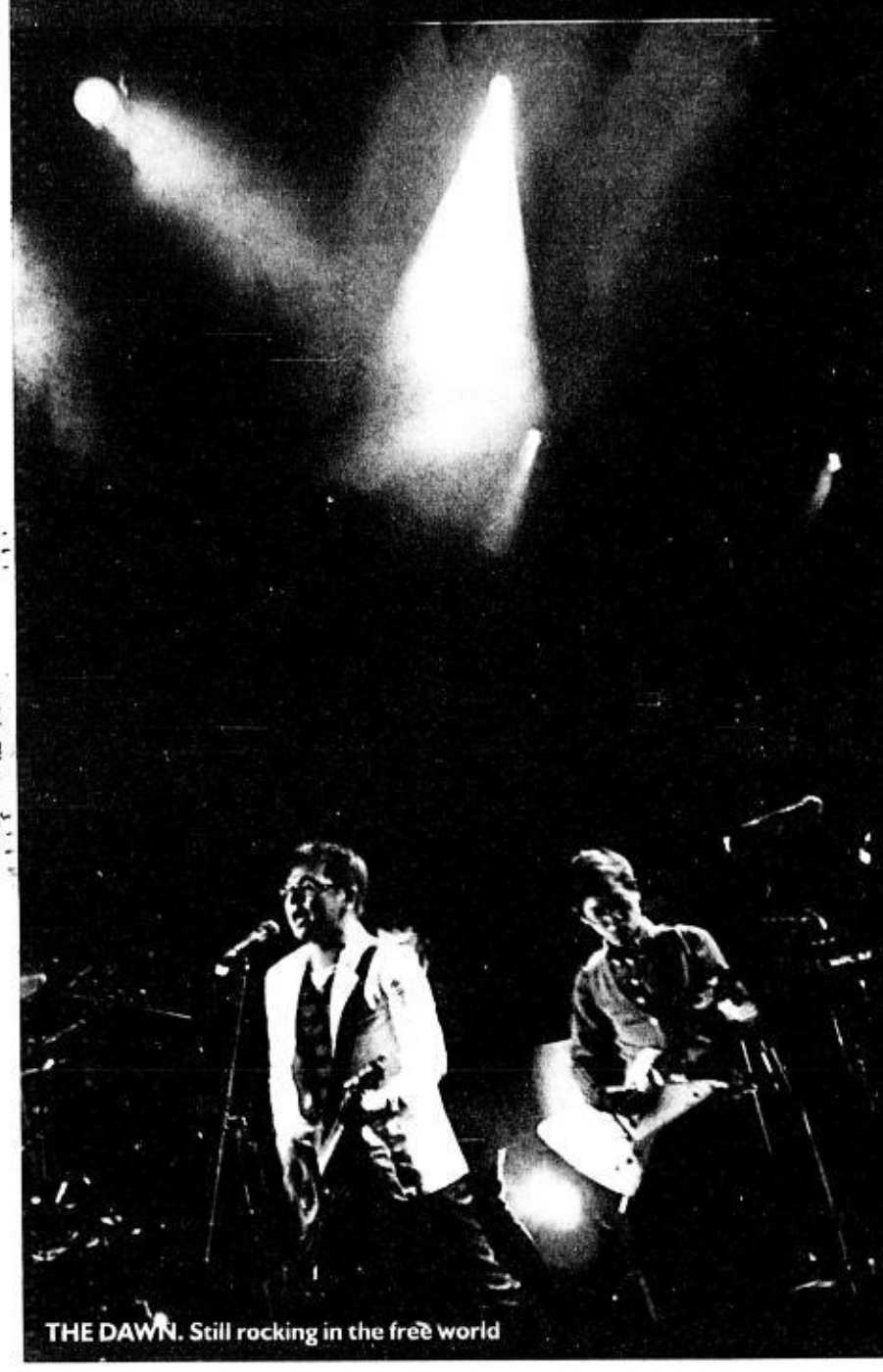
HE FILLED in the Blanco.

BAGONG LOOK *liwanag, bagong* Rivermaya

ONE-MAN shy, last performance as a trio



The River Ran Through Him



THE DAWN. Still rocking in the free world

From page C1

gar's number, asking the audience to take out their cell phones for everyone to experience "a rock moment." Each member a solid musician and song writer, I was apprehensive thinking did they really need to be a quartet?

And then they were four

So when I first saw Jayson Fernandez, the scrawny, hungry-eyed, young 18-year-old who would be part of the latest incarnation of Rivermaya, my heart sank. He looked ... tiny. Compared to the boys of Overtone, the house band of the show, he seemed just that ... a young 18-year-old playing at rock star. But then he sang "Himala" and I was floored. The boy can sing. He hit every note and walked around the stage with swagger that defied his age. He has a presence, not yet commanding, but potentially awesome. His own song "Pagbabago" was a rousing rock tune with catchy contemporary lyrics that impressed Francis Reyes of the Dawn, one of the judges of the show. Though it lacked a recognizable chorus, the foundation was there.

Jayson has been singing in bars and cafés since he graduated high school to help out his mom and grandmother who raised him sans father. Whatever anger and resentment he had was channelled to hard work and music. It's a true story that television serials are made of, complete with story book ending. When Lizza Nakpil, manager of the band congratulated Jayson and invited him to join Rivermaya, the crowd boomed with cheer. His dream had come true. Additional percussionists joined onstage and the newly revealed Rivermaya began to play "Ang Awit ng Kabataan." I was on my feet clapping and singing along. I totally ignored Stacy even if she was still bumping into me because all I could think about was the whole new chapter ahead for a band I didn't realize until that night that I loved.

BROTHERS IN ARMS. First performance of the new Rivermaya

Not the end

The interview right after the performance was a bad idea—the band was tired yet elated. Jayson was still in the throes of joy. Neither was in the right state of mind to answer questions. All Jayson could say was that he promised to live up to the expectations of the band and to do his best to live up to the musical legacy before him. Mark Escueta shares that this whole new dimension will keep things interesting for them. They are going straight into recording for the brand new album. Jayson laughs and says "let's record now!" The boy's got spunk.

As it has been said during the show, over and over, Rivermaya is more than just any one member. It is more than the band, but it is the music and the people who have rallied behind the band. Hundreds of people came to the auditions, male and female, of all ages, proving that even now, 14 years since they first came into the scene, the group is still a force to be reckoned with.

It was then that I realized that beside Japs, Mike and Mark, of course Jayson would be found lacking; he is as young as the boys were when they first started in the music industry. But in him, they saw all that potential and with their guidance Jayson's three new older brothers, his band mates, are going to turn him into a bona fide rock star. And Jayson, with his youthful intensity and hunger, will bring renewed energy. A new chapter begins.

Catch the two-hour special on Myx this Sunday, Oct. 28 9:15 p.m.

BOY N' THE HOOD. Callalily rocks.

PEEK-A-BOO! Raimun guest guitarist Kris Da

GREENFIELD CITY:
SPEARHEADING STA. ROSA'S BOOM

Greenfield Development Corporation (GDC) has truly emerged as one of the country's top property developers in the past four decades. What could be considered the pioneering heritage project of GDC is Greenfield City---a masterplanned community in the South that has symbiotically spurred growth between GDC and the local community the company established itself in.

For a decade now, Greenfield City has fittingly stood for and continues to symbolize the dynamic growth that the CALABARZON area has experienced.

Situated in the burgeoning municipality of Sta. Rosa , Laguna, Greenfield City truly is the pinnacle of GDC's success because it stands as a testament to the property developer's acute masterplanning expertise and commitment not only to developing land, but to creating a sustainable community and a highly productive development which even the whole country benefits from.

Greenfield City is a paragon of property development that successfully manages residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational facilities, plus transportation hubs and facilities, to create an overall self-sustaining and highly attractive community in a setting atypical of the traditional, crowded central business districts in the metro.

As developments went full swing for Greenfield City, GDC co-ventured infrastructure projects, such as the completion of major road networks like the Mamplasan Interchange and ABI-Greenfield Interchange linking the South Metro to the growth center, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. The establishment of road and transportation networks is but a vital aspect of the overall sustainability of the community GDC creates.

These access routes are especially important to the economic and industrial center of Greenfield City--- the Greenfield Auto Park and Sta. Rosa Business Park, where growth opportunities in the South continue to thrive. Greenfield Auto Park (GAP) is a special industrial estate accredited by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) that is home to automotive and auto-related manufacturing firms, providing thousands of jobs to Filipinos. Also located nearby is Greenfield Automall, a convenient five-hectare hub of related automotive, retail and commercial establishments. Sta. Rosa Business Park, on the other hand, is the primary office and commercial zone of the area, also immensely contributing to job and industry generation in the South.

To help build the residential sector and the neighboring communities in the locale is Paseo De Sta. Rosa, considered to be the heart of Greenfield City as a rising metropolis. This commercial and leisure center has undergone numerous expansions since its opening, due to the overwhelming patronage and response of families in the South. Paseo de Sta. Rosa provides an array of dining, shopping and recreational options that make Southern living a self-contained experience, with little need to travel far to Makati or Metro Manila to enjoy modern conveniences.

Paseo de Sta. Rosa comprises retail, dining and leisure areas such as Paseo 1, 2 and 3. Outlet shops, wellness establishments and fast food restaurants provide relaxing and enjoyable surroundings, complementing the fun, festive, wholesome entertainment that could be enjoyed at the Promenade and Paseo 3 with its restaurants and party places. A new and better lifestyle hub is in the works, called Laguna Central, that will add even more vibrancy to the already bustling social life in the South at Greenfield City.

Completing GDC's vision of creating an ideal community is building a residential park, called Pramana. The pioneering residential area of Greenfield City, Pramana is a place that promises the sanctity of suburban living despite the urban-like development of the Sta. Rosa area. More than half of Pramana's 80-hectare area will be devoted to wide spaces, tree-lined roads, pocket gardens and greenery. The tastefully designed homes will feature Asian-inspired Modern architecture, and residents will benefit greatly from excellent security, facilities and amenities that ensure total convenience and comfort.

All these continuous achievements of GDC in Sta. Rosa continue to provide a benchmark for a carefully masterplanned and sustainable property development specifically suited to the 21st-century needs of the Filipino. Through GDC's years of expertise and experience in Greenfield City and in the South, it also strives to replicate business opportunities in Metro Manila with Greenfield District---a 24-hectare retail, office and residential area that fuses vital transportation hub with several retail destinations to meet the needs of daily commuters.

Truly, a decade of growth in the South has led to momentous advancements in technology, economy, and nation-building by Greenfield Development Corporation with Greenfield City. What more could be in store in the next decade but a promise of better things to come?

IPOD AMBUSH

Search session

Super gave Sessio Nano to thank her can win one too!

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Jill Lejano

SUPER HAS BEEN KEEPING busy spotting local musicians we think you should hear. We stalk them at gigs, get them to spill the beans about their music and we give them an iPod Nano (yeah the older, slimmer one)—a gift from us and Steve Jobs for giving the local music scene a boost. But here's the really cool part—every time we give them an iPod Nano, we get to give you one too. This week, we iPod Ambushed Session Road's Hannah Romawac-Olives

Caught at ... a gig at Route 196 in Katipunan and Xaymaca

Currently busy with ... "looking for a new bassist, hopefully we can find one soon!"

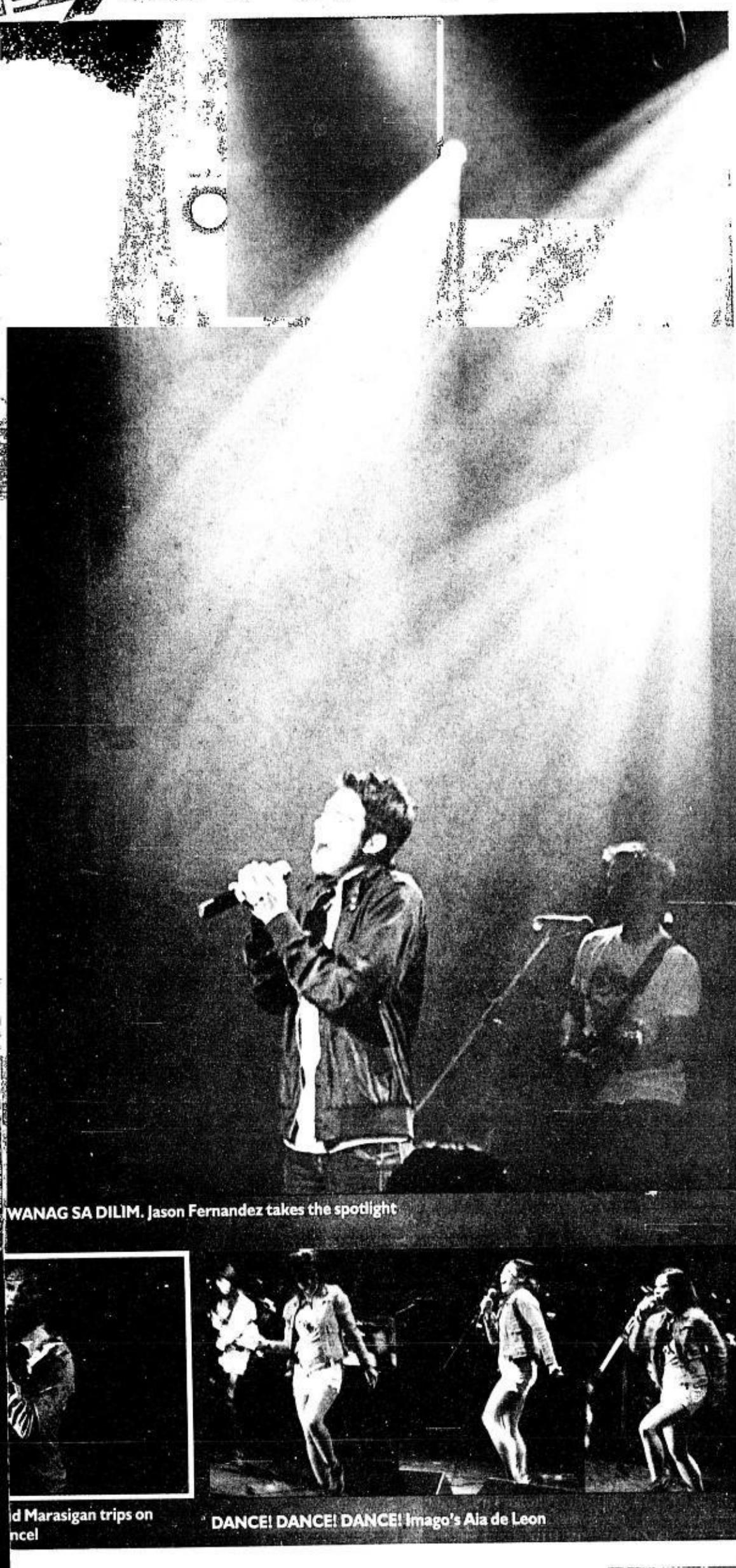
Describes their music as ... "Our music for me was never categorized to just one genre. The bands diversity has always been encouraged in the creative process so there's a little bit of everything there."

What's one song you can't stop listening to now? "Song? Artist na lang! Well I cant stop listening to Imogen Heap at the moment." "This is a hard one. How can I narrow it down to just five songs?! I'm taking the liberty to change this question into **"What five albums/artists should the readers have in their iPods?"** Not that this makes it any easier at all! But I'll give it a try. You should definitely have an album of The Beatles! **Which one?** That's up to you, man! That's actually a whole other question so let's not go there! hahaha! Put in Jeff Buckley's "Grace" album! There's something about his voice that never fails to give me goose bumps! Include Jack Johnson! I love all his albums so I'm not picking any. This is for those steady days, maybe at the beach, sipping on a drink! You should have The Police and U2 as well. Wait! I'm not done! Here's my OPM list! Eraserheads, Rivermaya, The Jerks, Cynthia Alexander, Yano, Juan Dela Cruz, Joey Ayala, Noel Cabangon, Imago, Parokya ni Edgar, P.O.T, Gary Granada ... and the list goes on! I know it's not five, come on, give me a break! Haha!"

DIVERSITY in session

How to get your dose of Hannah: Pick up "Bakit Hindi?", Session Road's third album (under Alpha Records). Catch Session Road's gigs at Xaymaca in Timog Ave. on Thursdays, Santiago Isabela on Nov. 10 and Zamboanga on Nov. 17. You can also keep in touch with Hannah and the rest of Session Road through sessionroad@yahoogroups.com and sessionroad.multiply.com or visit www.sessionroad.hp.ms.

Extra: Session Road is looking for a new bassist. Hannah said, "If you know any bass players who are interested and can commit please contact our manager Vicky through 0917-6227807."



WANAG SA DILIM. Jason Fernandez takes the spotlight

d Marasigan trips on ncel

DANCE! DANCE! DANCE! Imago's Aia de Leon

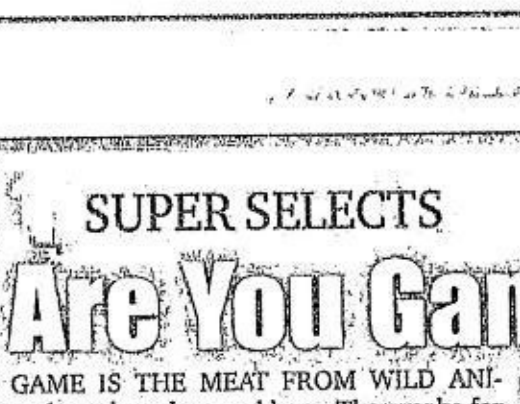
SUPER SELECTS

Are You Game?

PHOTOS BY HUBERTUS CRAMER

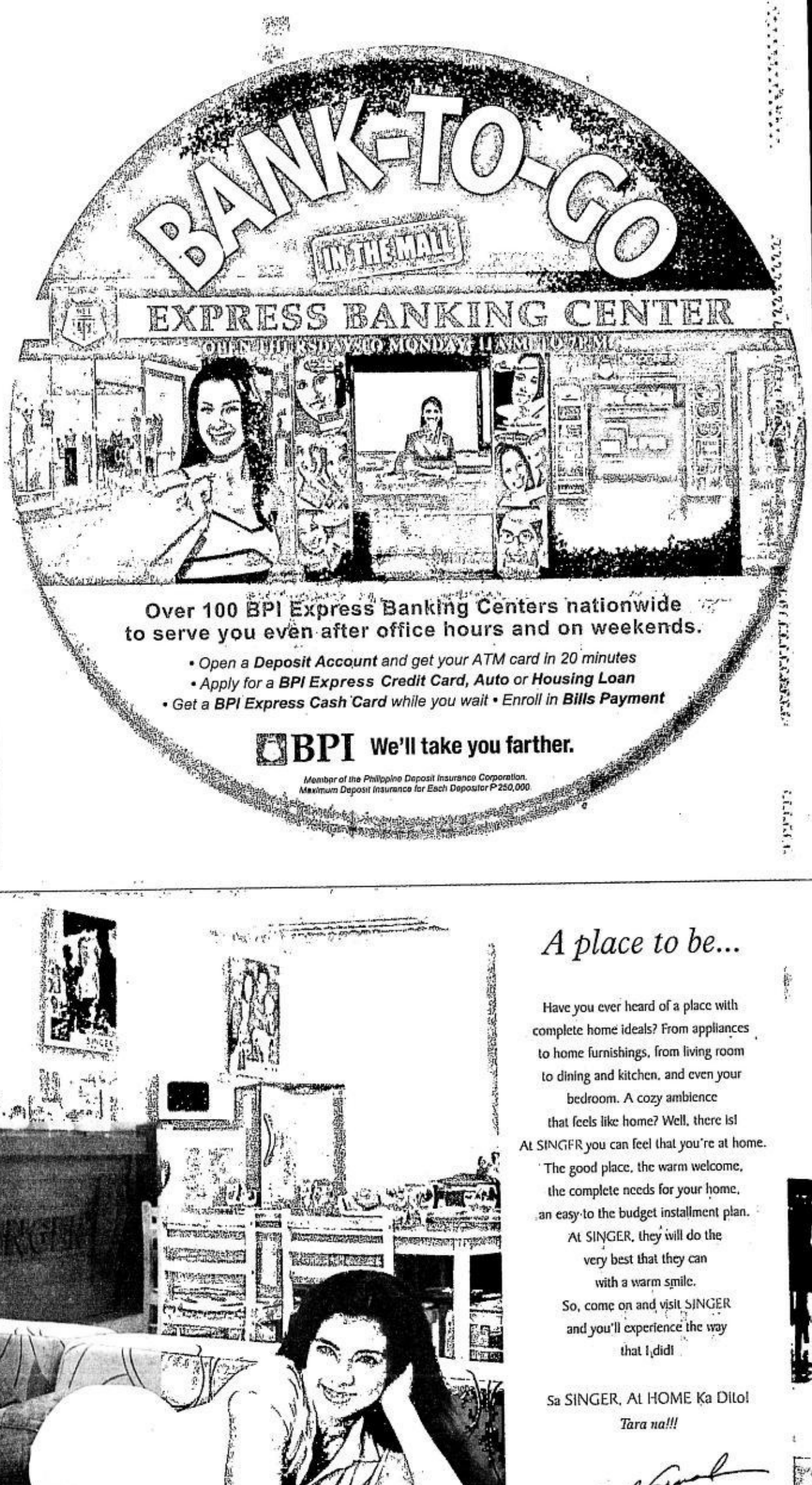
GAME IS THE MEAT FROM WILD ANImals such as deer and hare. They make for great feasting as they are lean and tender and have lower fat and cholesterol content. Instead of going out of your way to go and hunt them, drop by The Fireplace at the Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila for some succulent meats like deer, wild boar and hare.

Only for a limited time so make your reservations by calling 245-1234.



WILD hare fillet

FILLET mignon of wild Boar

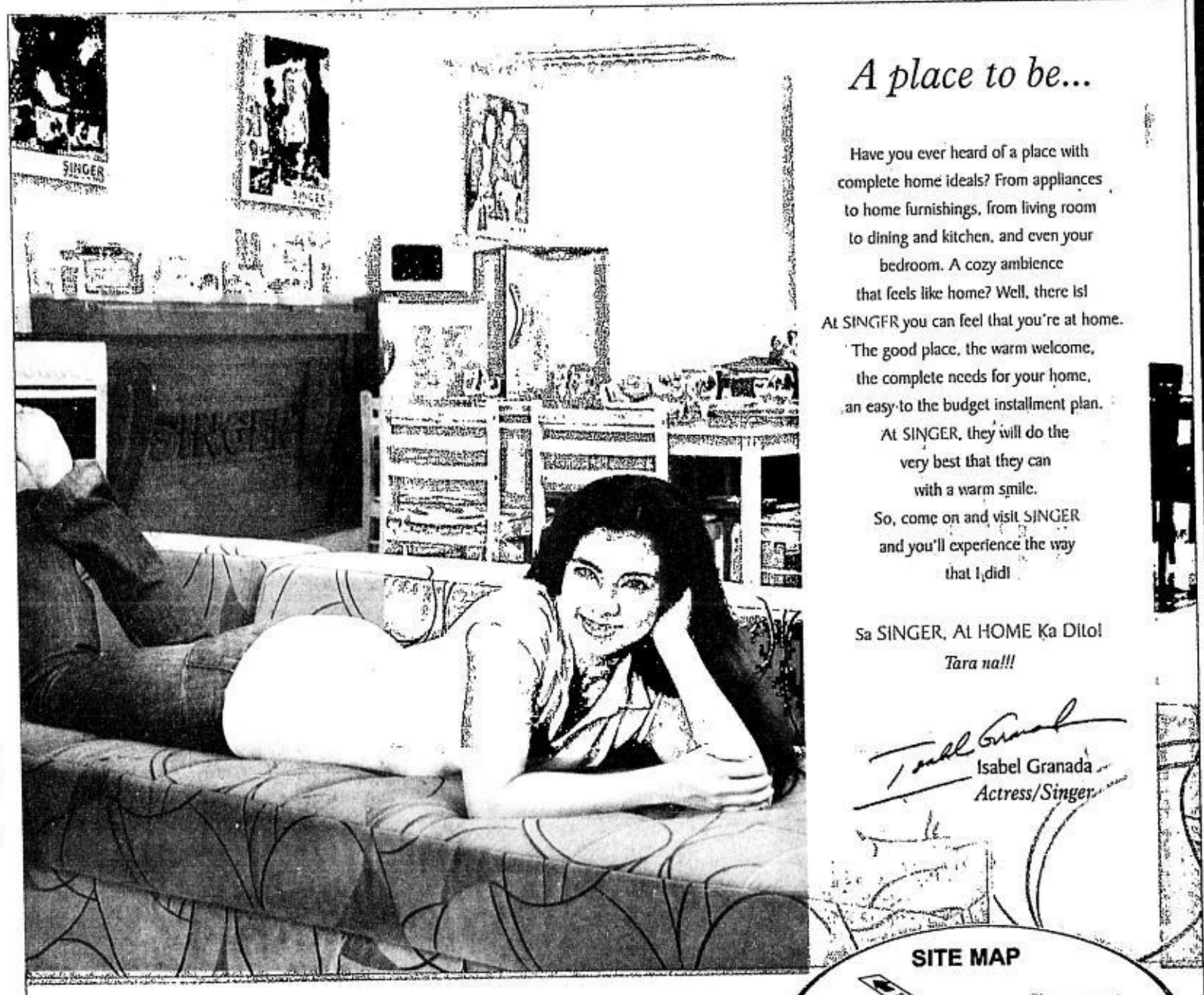


...n Road's Hannah Romawac-Olives an iPod ...for giving the local music scene a boost. You

Win an iPod Nano!

Prove to us that you're Hannah Romawac-Olives' biggest fan and win aniPodNano! Be as creative as you can. E-mail your entries to **super@inquirer.com.ph** along with your name, age, school/office and contact info.

HANNAH asks "Why not?"



WANAG SA DILIM. Jason Fernandez takes the spotlight

d Marasigan trips on ncel

DANCE! DANCE! DANCE! Imago's Ala de Leon

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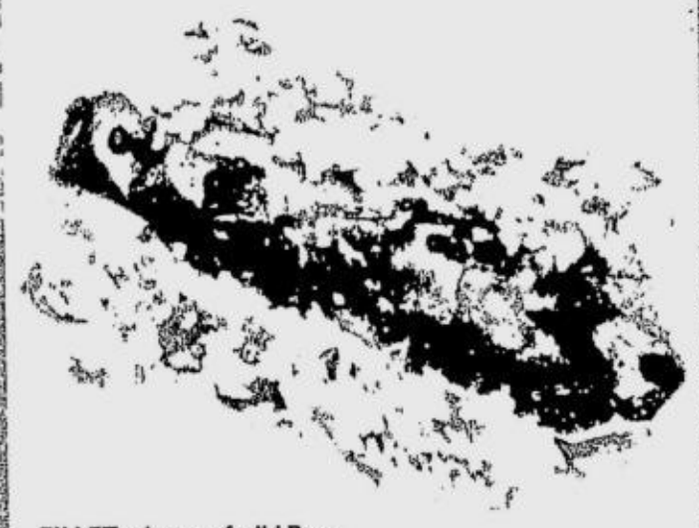
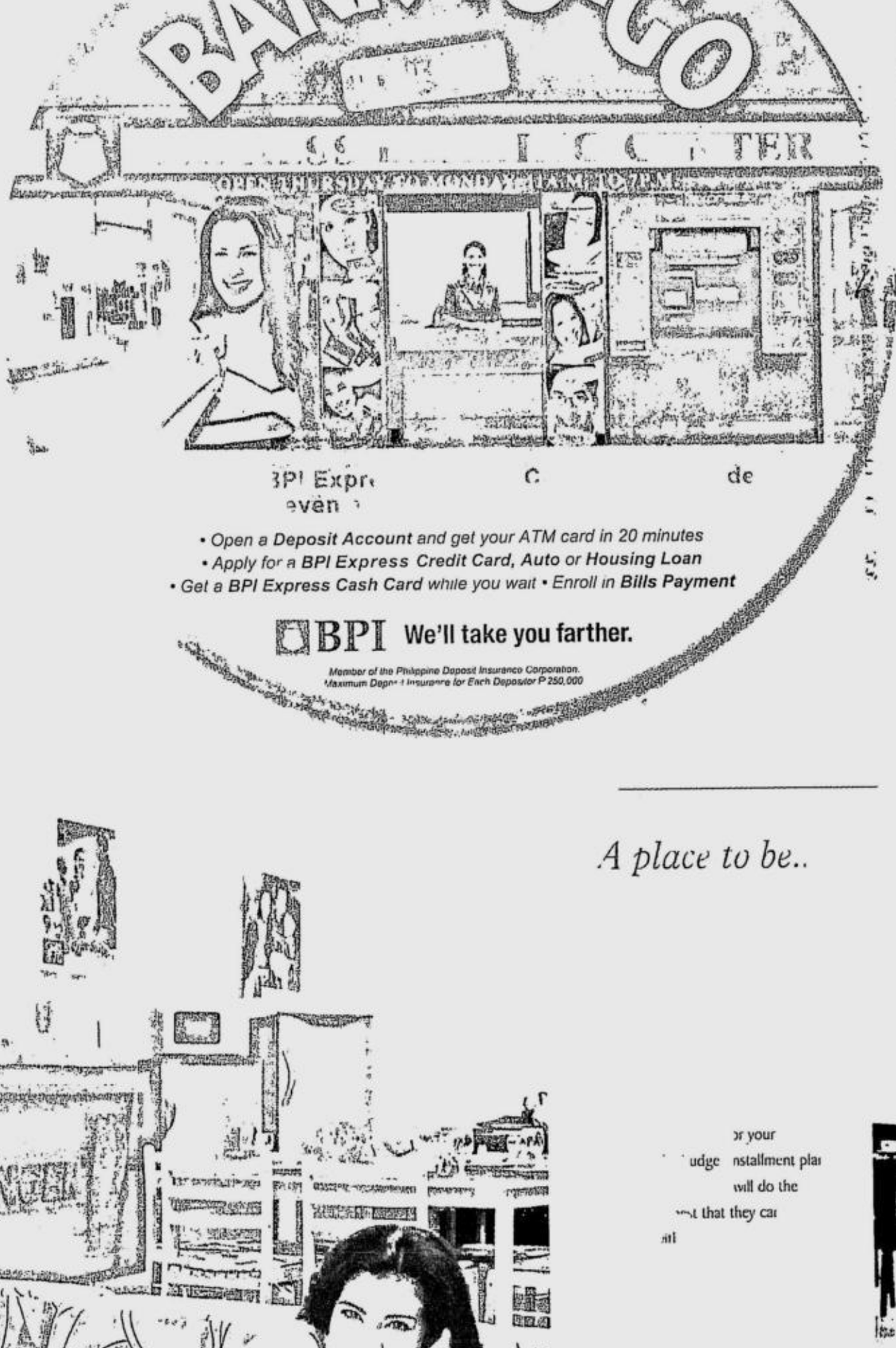


FILLET mignon of wild Boar

BANK-TO-GO



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HANNAH asks "Why not?"

A place to be..

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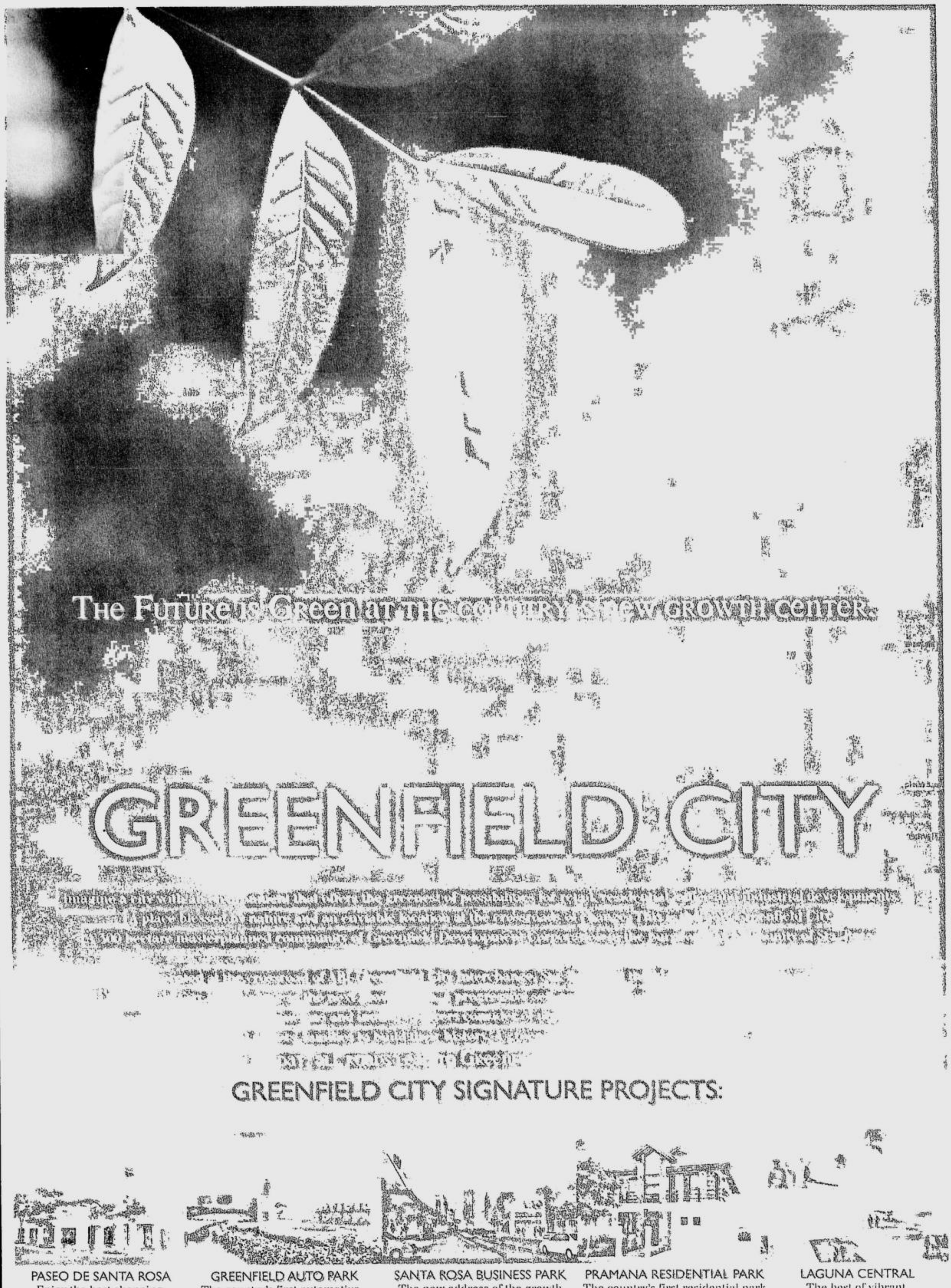

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24/7 SUPER RADAR

By Janine Cuenca-Dario and Stef Juan

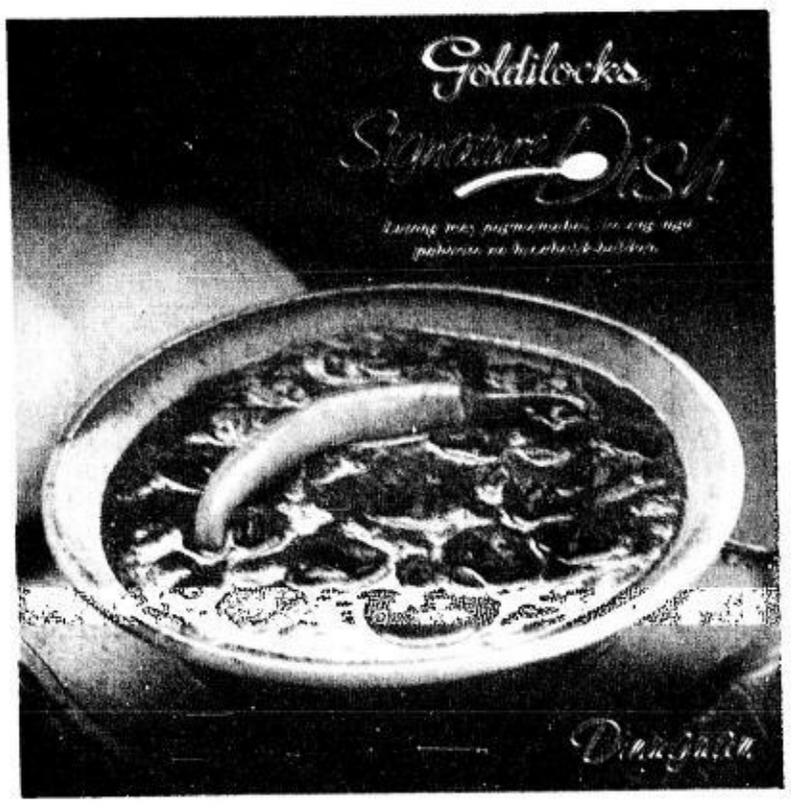
SCREAM teen spirit tonight as Ateneo de Manila High School Freshmen rock it out at **'IGNITE'**, featuring a performance of high school students in a concert and the top local rock acts Radioactive Sago Project, Paramita, Giniling Festival, Swissy, Sleepwalk Circus and Musical 0. The concert is open to the public from 6 p.m. onwards at the Ateneo High School Covered Courts, Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For more info, call 0917-525-1355.

FEEL the otherworldly groove of **DJ Jesse Garcia** and spend **A NIGHT IN WONDERLAND AT ALCHEMY**. This top Spanish DJ, who is flown in especially for this Halloween Night, will play alongside DJ Elmer Dado and Grupo Tribale. Oct. 31, 9 p.m. onwards at Alchemy, Silver City, Libis. For tickets, call 0917-886-1049 (Skeeter) or for more info, call 0917-511-0401 (Trish) or log on to http://www.alchemyevents.info/.

SEE super heroes come out for one of Metro Manila's hottest Halloween parties courtesy of **Embassy Super Club-Dynamic Duos: The Embassy Halloween Ball**! on Oct. 31 at Fort Bonifacio. Come as your favorite superhero tandems and party the night of ghoulies and ghosties away! Embassy Super Club is located at the Fort with phone (02) 816-4195/99.

HEAR the pattering of tiny feet as our costumed four-footed friends, with their humans, troop over to Eastwood Central Plaza for **Scaredy Cats and Dogs: Year 4**, a Halloween event for the Benefit of the PAWS Animal Shelter today. Registration opens at 1 p.m. and program starts at 3 p.m. A P150 joining fee will be charged to benefit the PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center. Eastwood is at 118 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Quezon City with phone (02) 421-0000.

EXPERIENCE the weird, wild, and twisted reality of Warehouse 135's **MANILA HALLOWEEN MUSIC CONFERENCE 2007**. It is a 3-day thrilling convergence of live acts, house, rock, retro music that would stun your third ear into submission starting tonight, the Peak of the Conference Night, at 8 p.m. featuring music from the various DJs, each with their distinct styles. The extreme lineup includes 3LOGY, 78ORANGE, ABG's, CALYPSO, CURV, ELECTRONICA MANILA, HOUSE OF SOUL, LOCAL E, MANILA UNDERGROUND, NBK, NOMAD, REWIRED, SOUNDSGOOD, STEREO MANILA and SUPERFLY. Wear your most twisted masks and head dress for this crazy party. On Oct. 29 at 9 p.m., the best of the local indie rock bands will be featured with Rock the DJ Raymond Mojica, with host Tara Tambunting. On Oct. 31, dance to your all time favorites with Retro Classic, Techno House and Classic House. For more information, call (02) 887-0526 or log on to www.drivenmanila.com.



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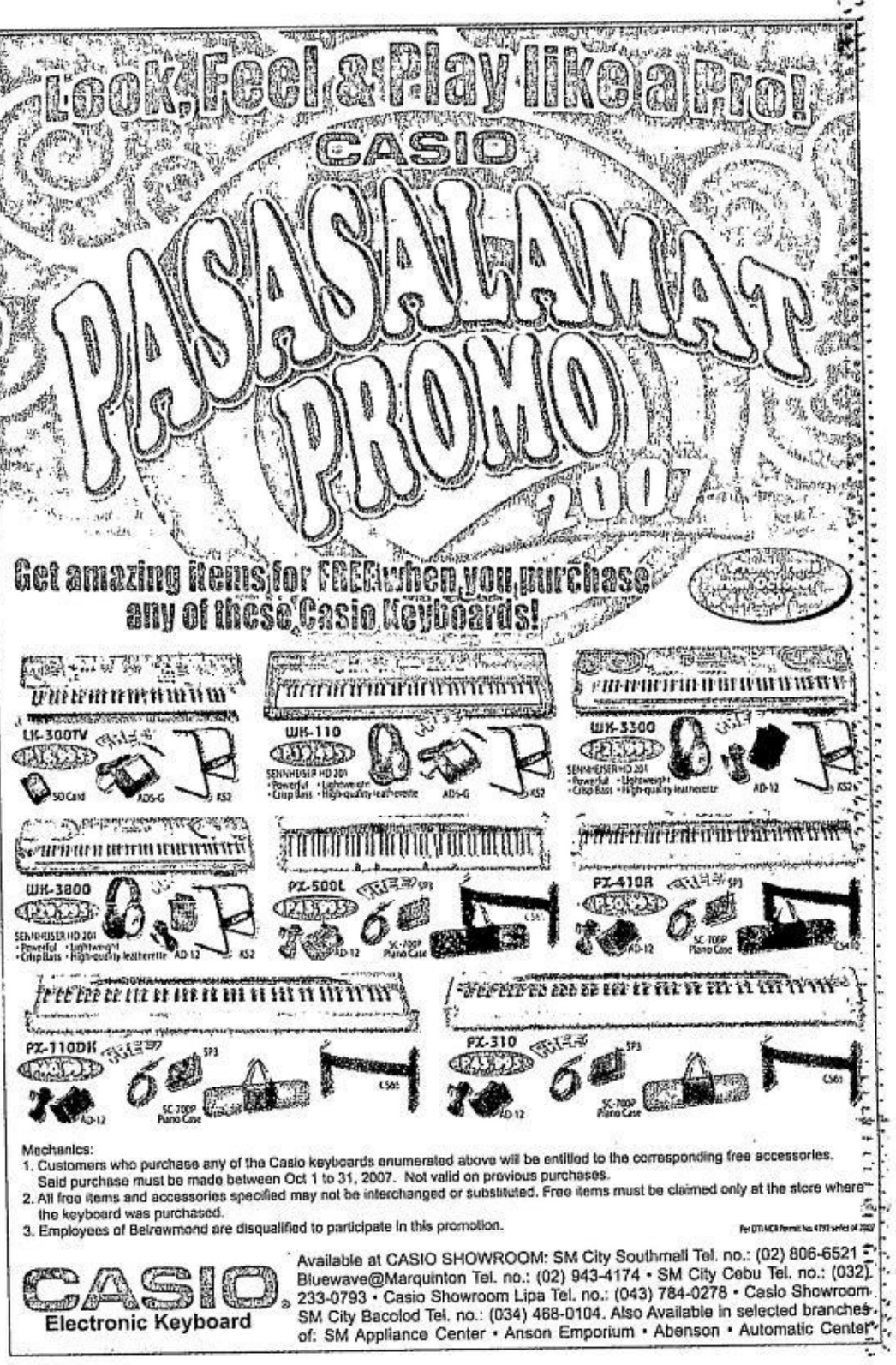

Mechanics:
1. Customers who purchase any of the Casio keyboards enumerated above will be entitled to the corresponding free accessories. Said purchase must be made between Oct 1 to 31, 2007. Not valid on previous purchases.
2. All free items and accessories specified may not be interchanged or substituted. Free items must be claimed only at the store where the keyboard was purchased.
3. Employees of Beirewmond are disqualified to participate in this promotion.

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PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

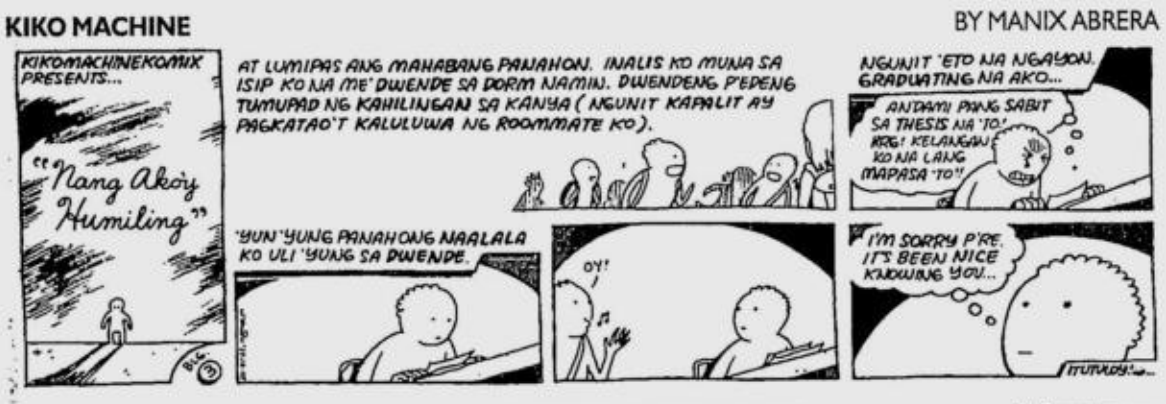
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



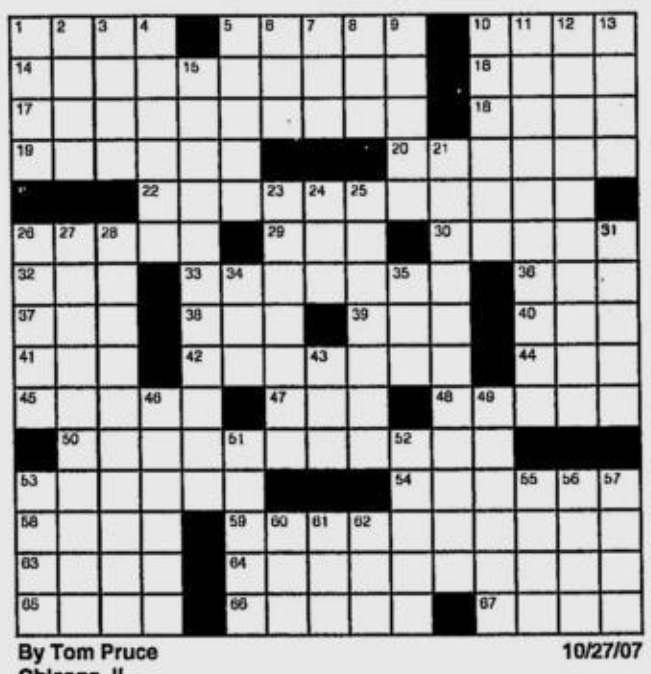
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

10/27/07



ACROSS
1 Boxer LaMotta
5 Intentional deception
10 Nile vipers
14 Reagan scandal
16 Proofreader's word
17 Of a kind of royal marriage
18 Filmmaker Riefenstahl
19 Away from the coast
20 Thug's rod
22 Challenge
26 Luster
29 Damaged mdse. tag
30 Large wading bird
32 Magic spell
33 List one-by-one
36 Bobbsey twin
37 Circle segment
38 Automobile
39 Roman Catholic sister
40 SHO rival
41 Prizefighters' org.
42 Aromatic liqueur
44 Priestly vestment
45 Type of orange
47 Washington's bill
48 Novelist Joyce Carol __
50 Reprimanding
53 King and Rawls of the LPGA
54 Contrivance
58 Plant part
59 Of rhetoric
63 New currency abroad
64 Necking location
65 Part of AARP
66 Mine entrances
67 Pole or Czech

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2 Elvis __ Presley
3 Malden or Marx
4 Mesh, like gears
5 Blend subtly, as colors
6 Cell letters
7 Crowd fig.
8 Tell's canton
9 Russian villa
10 Obliquely
11 Cowboy's topper
12 Understandable in a way
13 Move about
15 Following church law
21 Dwight and Mamie
23 "A Star Is Born" director
24 Upper limb
25 Imitated the Chesire Cat
26 Dick of "The Producers"
27 Vegetal
28 Backhoes
31 Door handles
34 Can pull
35 "__ alors!"
43 Gerund maker
46 Catcher Howard
49 Blacksmiths' blocks
51 Luigi's island
52 Smells
53 La __ Tar Pits
55 Myth ending?
56 Biblical miracle site
57 Hgt.
60 Laver or Stewart
61 Fauna starter?
62 Vietnamese holiday

Friday's Puzzle Solved

L	E	F	T		O	P	T	S		C	H	A	O	S
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HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Most of you are real characters. You're highly individualistic! Plus you're energetic, dynamic and enthusiastic about life. You get things done. You're fun-loving and entertaining; nevertheless, you have an extremely private side that few people ever see. You love the affection and support from others. (You enjoy your popularity.) The year ahead is full of exciting, new beginnings! Yay!

Birthdate of: Theodore Roosevelt, US president; John Cleese, actor/writer; Fran Lebowitz, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Keep your eye focused on the possessions or resources of others. You might be able to benefit in some way at this time.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Because the Sun is still opposite your sign, discussions with partners and close friends are important. Listen to what others have to say. You can learn something.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your energy is high and your drive is strong, and this is why you're so keen to get better organized. Wonderful! (You own two of practically everything.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a fun week for your sign. Enjoy romance, vacations, parties, sports and playful activities with children. Just make sure you have a good time!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Home, family and domestic matters continue to be your primary focus. Real estate and discussions with parents might also be important.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Short trips, buying and selling, plus increased reading, writing and studying keep you active now. You're constantly on the go.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're thinking a lot about possessions and earnings. Since you're going to be streamlining some things, you need to know what to let go of and what to keep. Right?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): The Sun is still in your sign, giving you energy and attracting people and favorable circumstances to you. Make the most of this. Make hay while the sun shines!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You need some downtime to do some serious thinking. Your new year is looming ahead: What do you want to be different this time? What do you want in your immediate future?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is such a lovely, popular time for you! Make the most of this social time with others by sharing your goals and dreams for the future. Their feedback will be helpful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): If people ask you to accept increased responsibilities, say yes. You don't have to do anything extra or mind-blowing. Who you are is what they want. In fact, bosses and VIPs are very impressed with you now!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Travel somewhere if you can. You need some adventure or something new and different to happen. If you can study or learn something new, that's great, too.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/27

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

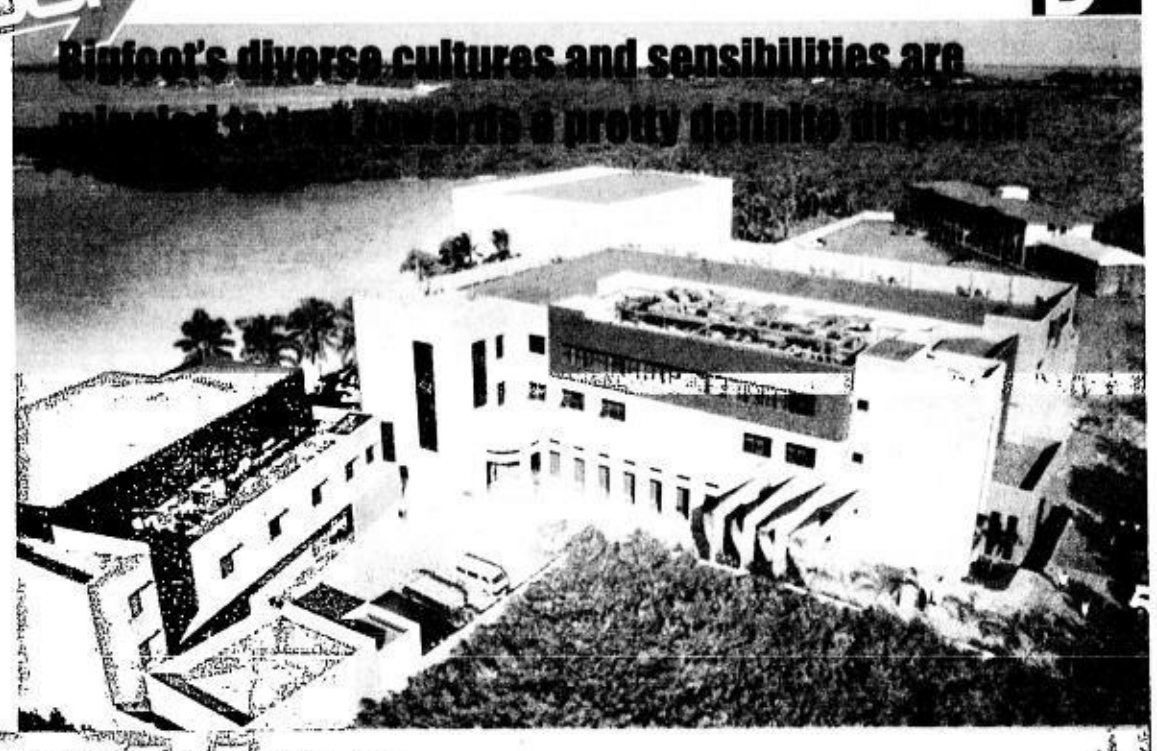
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

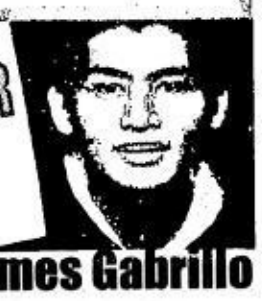
7	6	2	4	3	5	1	9	8
1	4	9	8	6	2	3	5	7
5	3	8	9	1	7	6	2	4
6	1	5	7	4	9	2	8	3
3	8	7	2	5	6	9	4	1
2	9	4	3	8	1	7	6	5
8	7	6	5	9	3	4	1	2
9	5	3	1	2	4	8	7	6
4	2	1	6	7	8	5	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/26

BIGFOOT for big dreams


Bigfoot's diverse cultures and sensibilities are

Mini Hollywood Insider



THUNDER ROAD

James Gabrillo

FOR THIS MEDIA MONSTER manor, it's about developing creativity and visualization.

Housing its facilities in a sprawling 19,617 square meter site in Mactan, Cebu, Bigfoot Entertainment via its production studio has worked on nine feature films, including the action thriller "Deep Gold," the first film that Bigfoot shot entirely in the Philippines.

You probably first heard of Bigfoot through "Hollywood Boot Camp," that reality television series that flew hopeful Filipino filmmakers to Los Angeles to play a part in the production of a Hollywood film and compete for a film development package and a two-year contract with the studio.

In the coming months, Bigfoot is set to release "Screen Test," a reality TV series that'll grant the winner a starring role in a major motion picture, and "Inside FTV," a half-hour tongue-in-cheek comedy show inspired by "Ugly Betty."

Playing the angles

At the moment, the studio is growing in leaps and bounds, opening its doors to the initiatives of capable filmmakers from around the world. "We're not settling on internally generated ideas. We are actively accepting scripts from outside, fleshed-out treatments that will undergo rigorous development," says director for creative development Timm Doolen.

Employing hundreds of Cebuanos and other Filipinos from around the country, Bigfoot trains superhard-workers to become industry experts. It's been very smooth so far. "It's because Filipinos give back passion and creativity. They really soak it up, jumping into the technology and then sharing it with others," says post production head Rob Nicol.

Production manager Nora Javellana adds, "We're trying to set the standard that you cannot just do your thing. Which is sometimes how it is in the major studios in the country, where big names can just slack easily and order people around. Here, it's about taking responsibility."

Getting into the bright lights

The International Academy of Film and Television (IAFT) is Bigfoot's learning camp for aspiring filmmakers and actors. Fueled by the desire to cater to the international film community's demand for professionalism and talent resources, IAFT provides an education with a curriculum that's at par with others of its kind in the top schools of the world.

Program director for acting Lawrence Espinosa shares, "We juxtapose the old and new methods. We don't just develop one type or one way of doing things. We make our students learn by becoming more accepting of their environment."

The academy is mentored by industry pros from film capitals the world over, and complemented by practical, hands-on training through internship opportunities on Bigfoot Entertainment's actual projects.

"IAFT is the training ground of Bigfoot. We put teeth in the cliché that we train you, we hire you," says sales director Caesar Ditan.

Work it for the cam

IAFT offers short-term workshops, four-week intensive acting workshops, a certificate program in filmmaking and a diploma program—the one-year

MINI HOLLYWOOD/ D4

There's a saying that goes, "less is more."

That's exactly what goes into **C2 Lite**. It's your favorite C2 taste with less calories, no sugar, and yet complete with the goodness of green tea.

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So give your body the goodness of green tea with less calories and no sugar. Find it in the delicious and healthy **C2 Lite**, the lite drink that gives you more.

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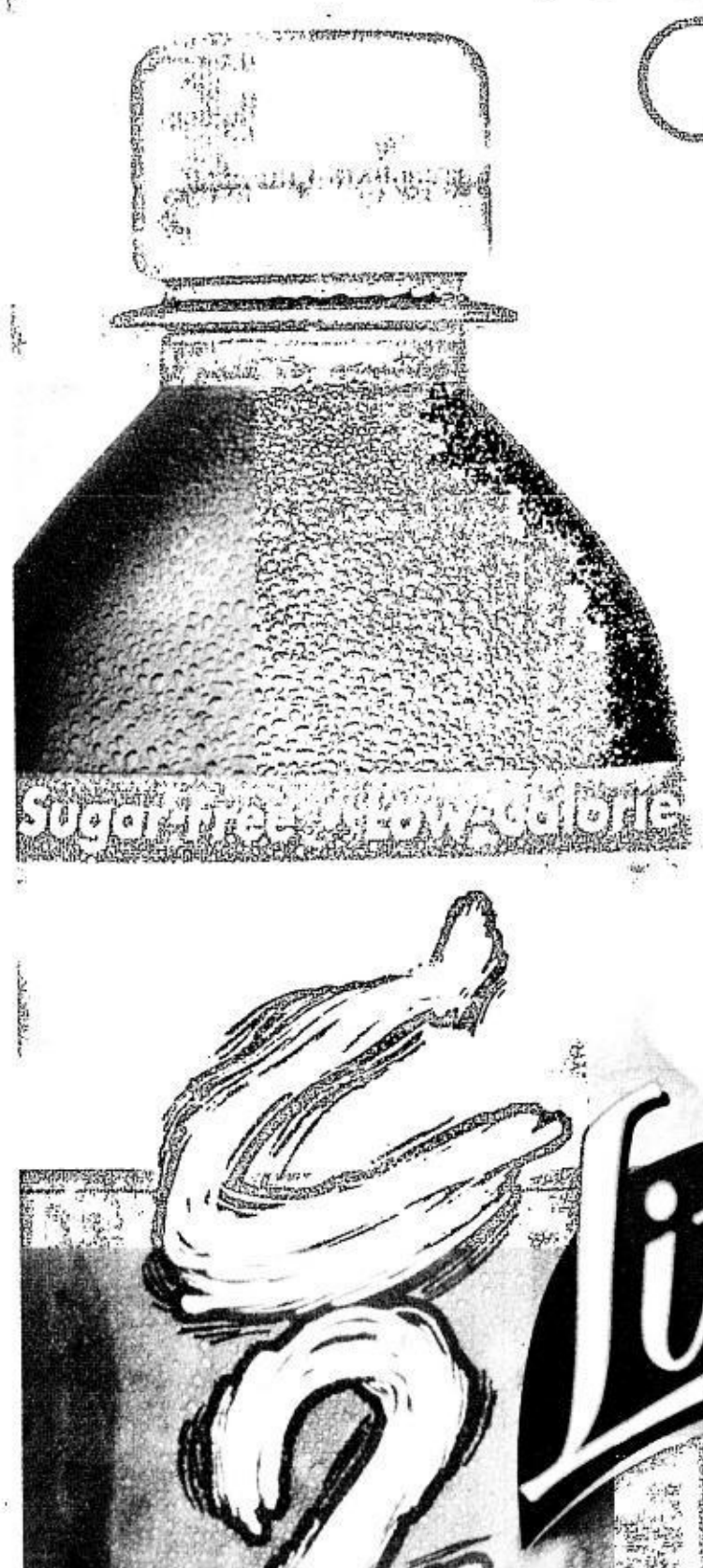
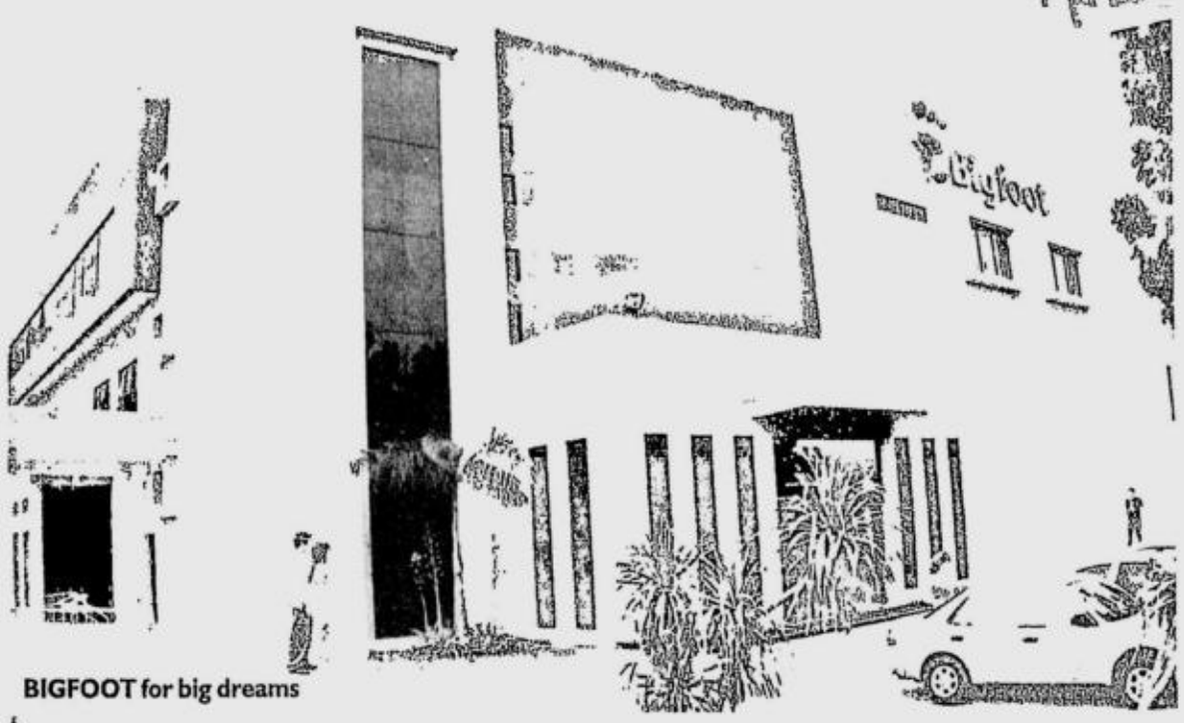
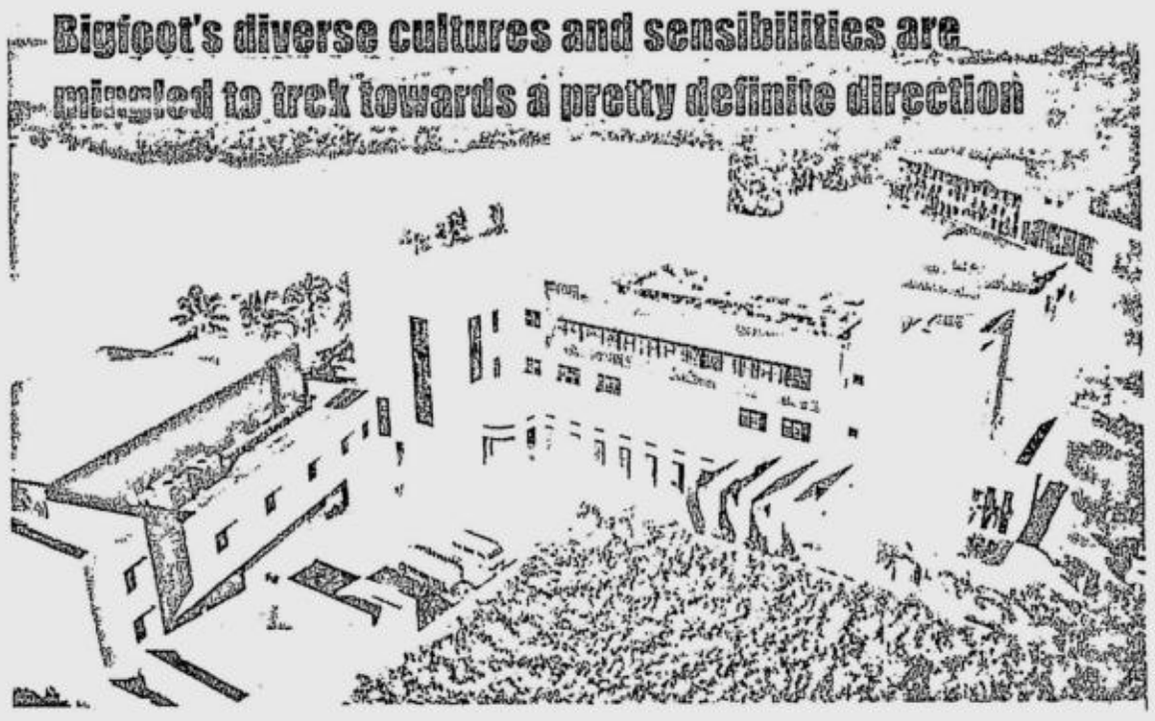




BIGFOOT for big dreams

Bigfoot's diverse cultures and sensibilities are mingled to trek towards a pretty definite direction



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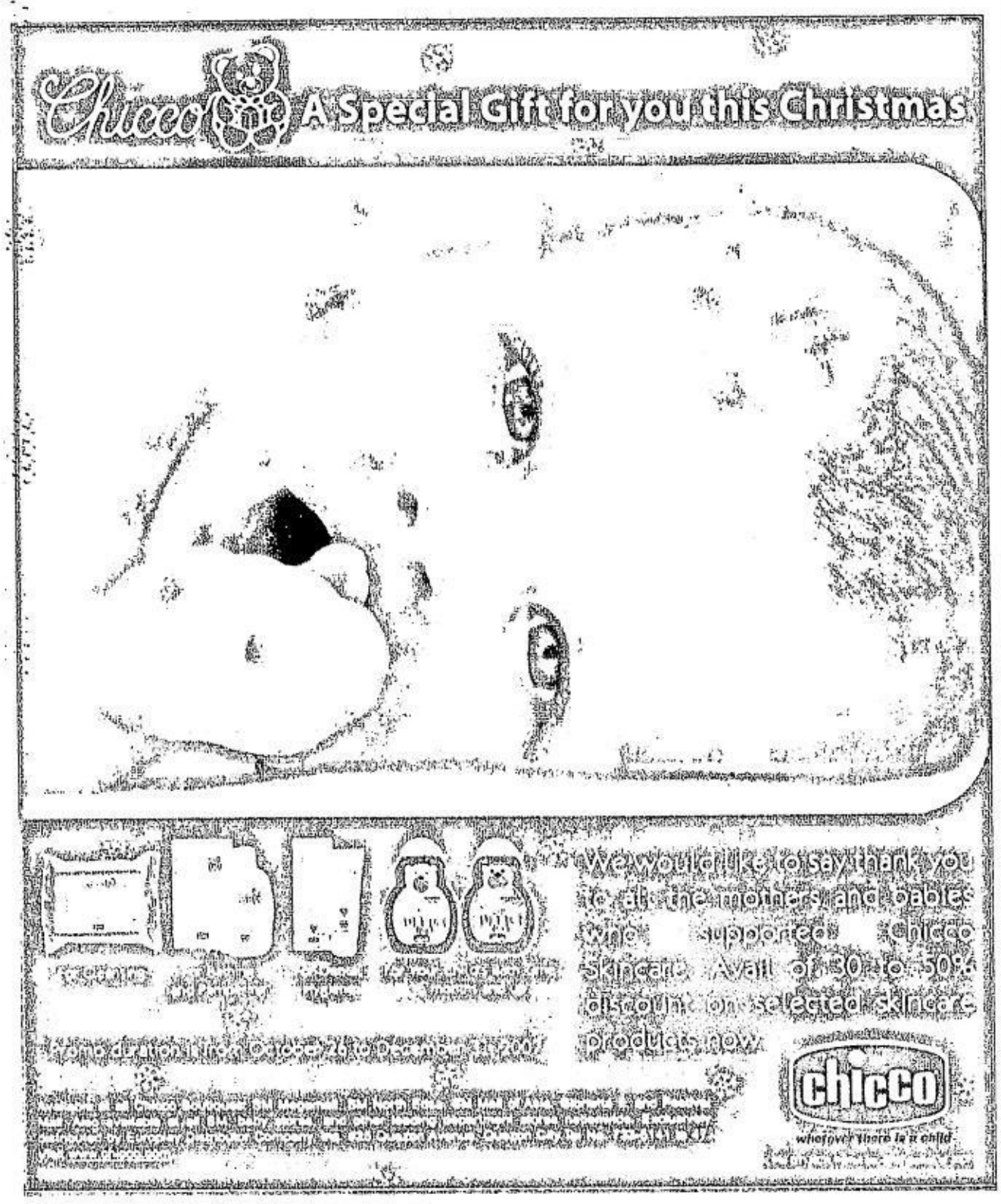
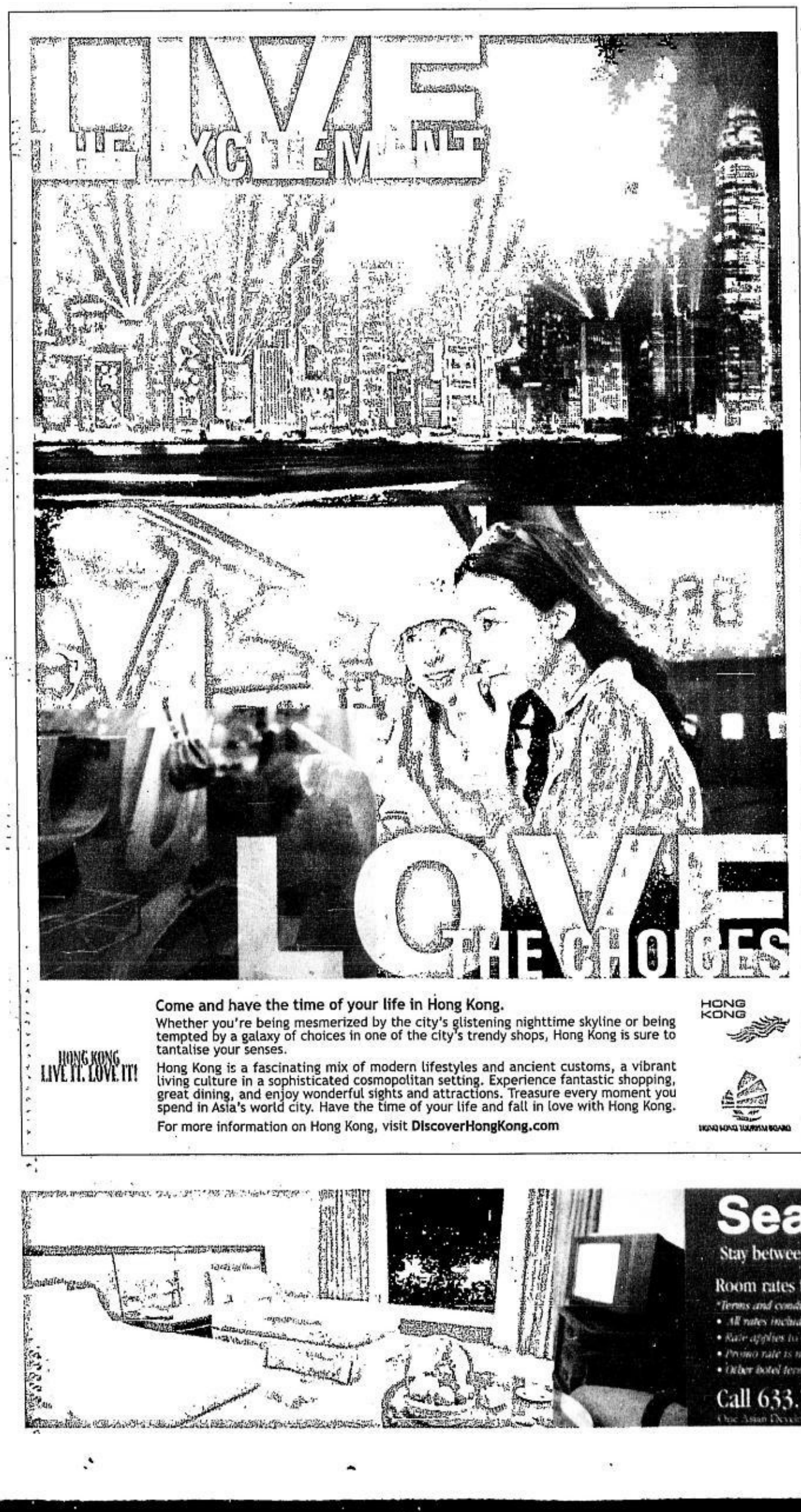




A STAR is born.

Mini Hollywood Insider

From page D3

immersion in filmmaking that covers a comprehensive range of filmmaking proficiencies.

"We don't just train students to be creative but also to be entrepreneurs," says marketing director Grace Venzuela. "For what is the purpose of the film school but to contribute to the economy of the world?"

Bigfoot's CEO Kacy Andrews shares, "We employ a hands-on approach. For us the most important question to answer is, 'Did you churn out anything?' I'm not saying that a degree isn't important; but creativity-wise, you need to create and create."

"Plus we don't give students special treatment," says Espinosa. "Everybody starts from scratch when you enter our doors, whether your surname is that of the echelon of society."

Venzuela agrees. "This is not a reputation thing, not an 'it's cool to study here' thing. There's a hierarchy to the work ethic, to the set lessons to be learned as a student of filmmaking. There's a pecking order that can't be violated."

Taking action

Screenwriting mentor Jeff Bacon shares, "A lot of people enter and think that they'll just come on the set and direct and sit on a chair. We try to change that."

"The biggest misconception is that this is fun, that this is a game. This is a very serious business. This is immersion," says producing mentor Tim Cruz.

The academy continues to receive an influx of well-respected mentors and students from countries as far-set as India and South Africa.

"We have different perspectives from different students—different cultures equal different ways of execution. We expose the students to different styles then they end up creating their own model," Andrews adds.

Its graduates have moved on to become recognized members of the film community, obtaining employment with major studios. IAFT's recent graduate Michael Manalastas won the Ishmael Bernal Award (the grand prize in the Digital Lokal short film category) in this year's Cinemanila International Film Festival for his film, "Delusions," which was his thesis project at the academy.

Directing the dream

The IAFT campus boasts of the best film facilities and equipment, including the first true soundproof sound stage in the country, another sound stage with a massive floor space of 1,100 square meters, a 75-seat Dolby Mix Theatre, Sony CineAlta HDW-E900R cameras, and the MovieBird 24 Telescopic Crane, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia.

But more than bringing in state-of-the-art equipment, the academy knows its real purpose. "We're looking for a filmmaker with a global sense. We are here to put the Philippines in the map through the language of film," says IAFT director Rosalinda Diao.

Program director for filmmaking Ed Lejano sums it up best: "It's about a lean and mean education. This is a film school in a film shoot location."

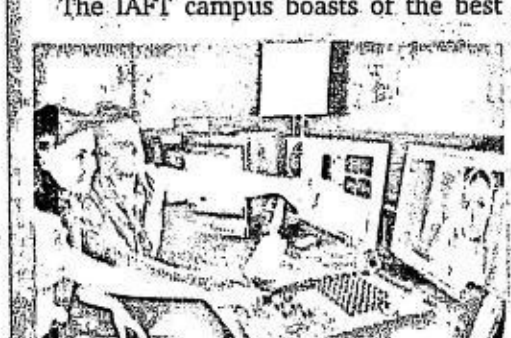
Foreshadowing

Bigfoot is currently working on the expansion of its facilities to Cebu City where the city's much-touted new industrial hub, the South Road Properties, will be located. The expansion plans, estimated at around $10 million, include four sound stages and a helicopter-pad in a two-hectare property equaling that of famous film outfits like Universal Studios and Warner Brothers Studios. Sweet.

"We're continually filming things. Everything is in-house. I come from Sweden and they don't have the same fantastic environment that we have here," says head of production Steve Aalam.

It also helps that Bigfoot is located in the tropical paradise of Cebu. Aalam adds, "Here it's a community, it's not just a place where you go to work."

With a youthful and vibrant team based in one of the country's most stunning islands, Bigfoot is out there to leave lasting footprints in the industry. "It's destination filmmaking," shares Academy Award winner and IAFT mentor Greg Curda. "We're positioning ourselves for greater capacity. It's the natural development of the studio."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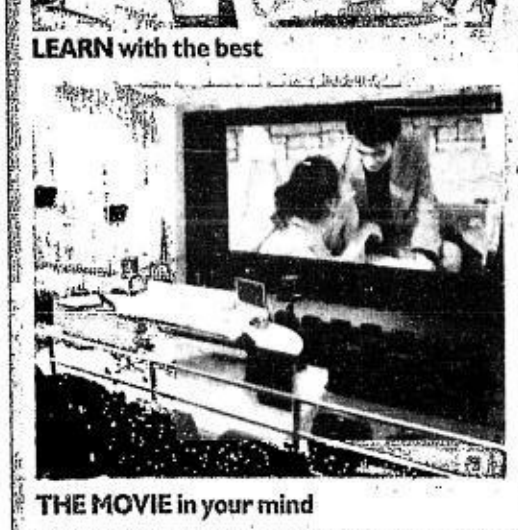

THE MOVIE in your mind

STEPPING IT UP—
The components of Bigfoot Entertainment

Bigfoot Productions
It produces quality independent feature films, television programs, as well as other educational and corporate content.

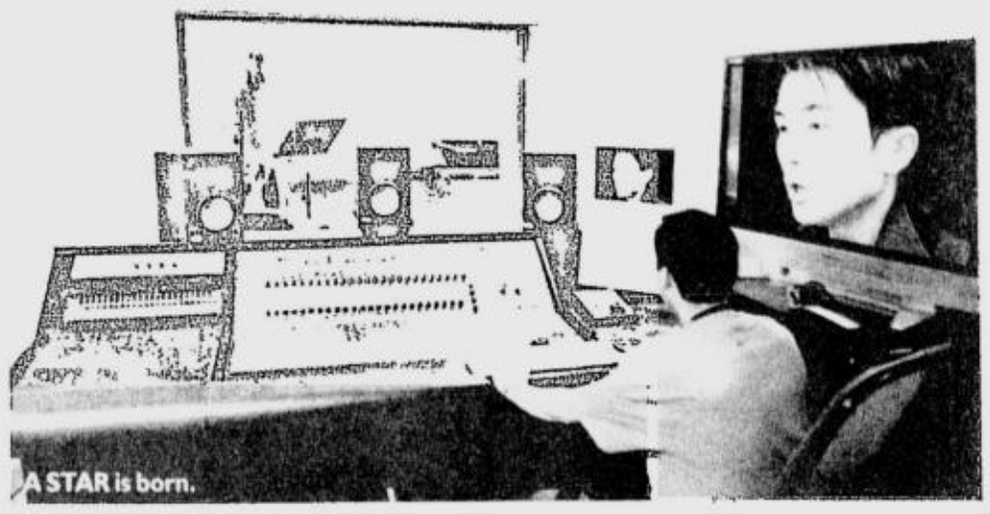
Bigfoot Studios
Bigfoot Studios is a state-of-the-art production and post facility for film, TV, and other multimedia needs that offers complete production management.

IAFT
IAFT cultivates filmmakers through hands-on immersion and workshop programs with mentors from Hollywood and other film capitals of the world.

Fashion TV
Bigfoot holds the Singapore and Philippines master franchise for Fashion TV, television's authority in fashion and one of the four most distributed channels worldwide.

New Cebu Films
It specializes in synergy film projects between students and filmmakers that are shot at Bigfoot's facilities in Cebu.

Visit www.filmschool.ph and www.bigfootentertainment.com



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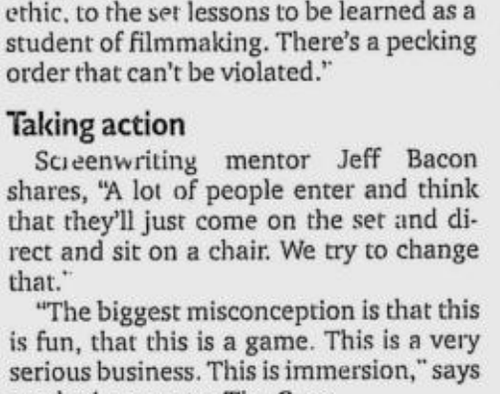

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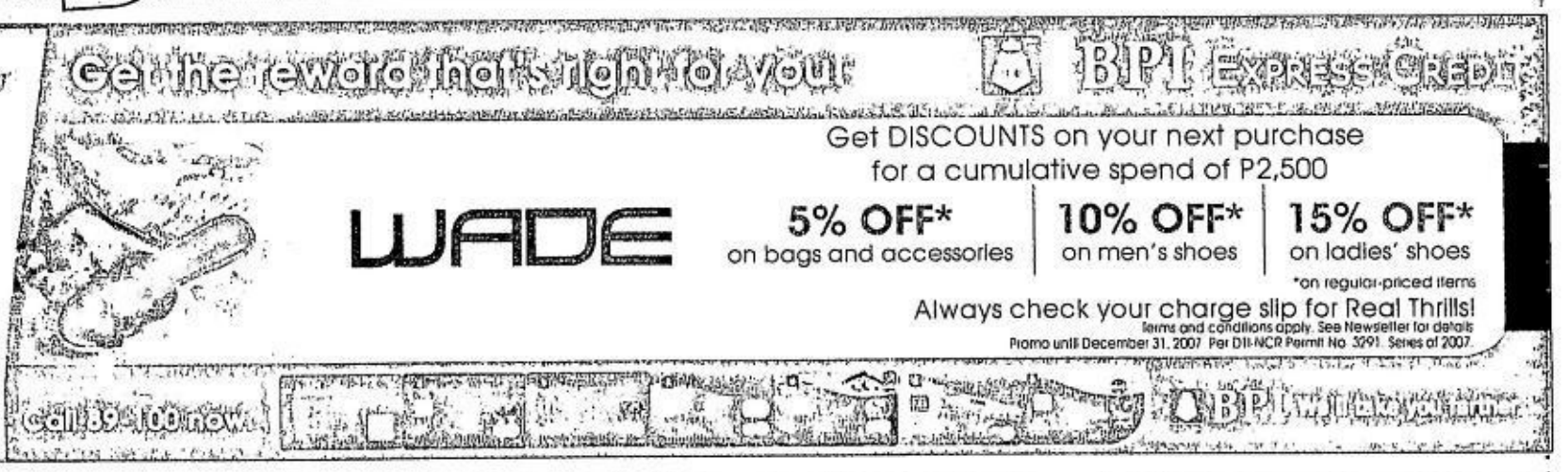

PEEPS All night long

FLASHPOWER. Stef Juan, Tatum Ancheta and Janine Dario

SPIN A WIN. DJ Christina Bartges

Ulterior Motive: 3rd annual 24/7 Nocturnal awards
Date of release: Oct. 3 2007
Crime Scene: BMW Pavilion The Fort
Party Perpetrator: 24/7 Magazine

The night was filled with winners and partygoers as 24/7 Magazine brought forth its coveted awards for the year. The celebration was filled with the best of the best for 2007.

ROCKER AND MODEL. Ira Cruz and Phoem Baranda

PRESENTING Anne Curtis

THREE'S COMPANY. Leica Carpo, Anton Barreto and Tessa Prieto-Valdes

SUPER KING. Kat Holigores and Atticus King

THE CATS MEOW. Sino Sikat

FULL BLAST. Nyko Maca

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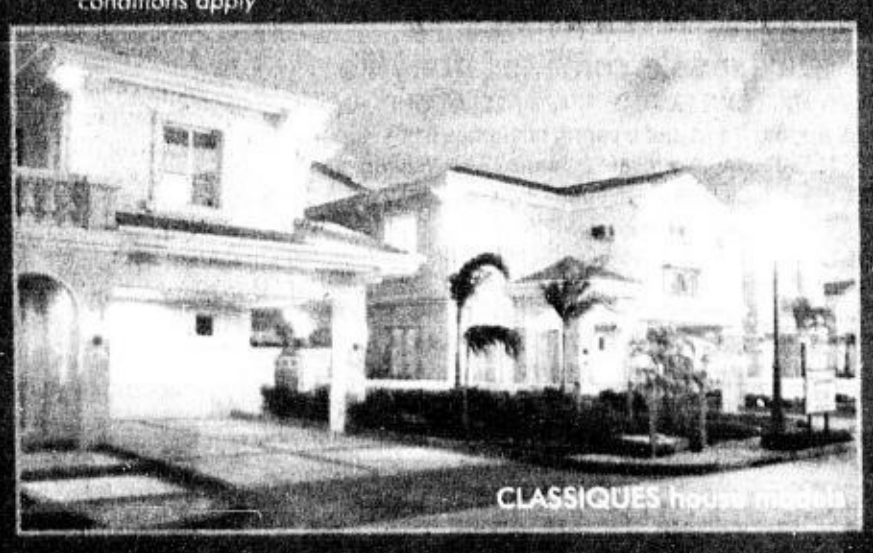

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information@centurypark.com.ph

City Garden Suites
1158A Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila
ADB Avenue cor. Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City Tel. 633-7222
www.ichotelsgroup.com

Discovery Suites
25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. 683 8222 Fax 683 8111
www.discoverysuites.com.ph

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333
dusitmni@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Edsa Shangri-la Manila
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

Grand Boulevard Hotel
1990 Roxas Boulevard, P.O. Box 776 Manila 1057, Phil.
Tel.526 85 88 Fax 526 17 01
www.grandhotelmanila.com

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
Km. 7, J.P. Laurel Ave., Lanang, Davao City
Tel (6382) 235-0888 / (6382) 234-3858
grandregalhotel@gmail.com
www.grandregalhotel.com

Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila
1588 Pedro Gil corner M.H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila 1004
Tel. 245 1234
Fax 247 8688
manila.casino.hyatt.com

Legenda Hotel
Waterfront Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, 2222 Phil.
Tel.732-9888
Fax 712-8575
sales@legendanet.com
www.subiclegend.com

Manila Pavilion
United Nations Ave. cor. Maria Orosa St. Manila
Tel. 526-1212 / Fax: 526-2552
www.waterfronthotels.com.ph

The Malayan Plaza
Quantum Serviced Suites
ADB Avenue cor. Opal Road
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. 706-0055 Fax 635-2969
www.quantumsuites.com

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave.
Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

La Union Country Resort Hotel, Inc.
Sevilla, City of San Fernando, La Union Phil.
Tel. (072)242-5621
Fax. (072) 242-5631
www.oasiscountryresort.com
oasis@sflu.com

Oxford Suites Makati Hotel
Durban cor P. Burgos Streets, Makati City
Tel. 899 7888 Fax: 899 6891
www.oxfordsuitesmakati.com

Parque Espana Alabang
5309 East Asia Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1781
Tel. 850-5880 to 81/ 850-5847
parqueespana@hil.com.ph
www.hospitalityinc.com.ph/parque

The Pearl Manila Hotel
General Luna Street cor. Taft & UN Ave. 1000 Ermita, Manila
Tel. 400-00-88 Fax: 400-00-77

Renaissance Makati City Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Richmonde Hotel
21 San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel.638-7777 Fax 638-8567
trh@richmondehotel.com.ph
www.richmondehotel.com

Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay, Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Tel. 243-2222 / Fax 243-0852
www.subichotel.com

The Sulo Hotel
Matalino Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. 924-5051 to 71
Fax 922-2030
frontoffice@sulohotel.com.ph
www.sulohotel.com.ph

Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
taalvista@fuegohotels.com

White Rock Hotel
Bo. Matain, Subic Zambales
Tel. 421 - 2781-82
(047) - 232 - 2857

Choco Truffle Extreme at the Bellevue

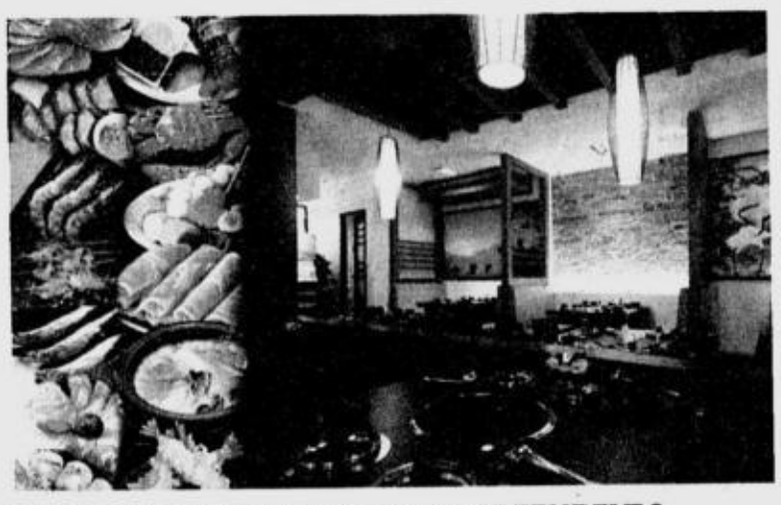
EXPERIENCE CHOCOLATE BLISS THIS October at the Bellevue with Choco Truffle Extreme! Treat and pamper yourself with luscious chocolate topped with mouth-watering praline croquantine and choco ganache finished off with sweet chocolate truffles. Let each bite melt in your mouth as you savour the flavour and let it play a symphony for your taste buds.

Take a much needed vacation this Halloween and unwind at the premier destination south of the Metro! The Bellevue Manila is offering suites at a special rate from Oct. 29 to Nov. 3. Book now and experience the exceptional quality of their 5 star amenities and friendly staff, not to mention a whole slew of incentives like a buffet breakfast for two, a complimentary gift certificate for an overnight stay, a 25 percent discount on Café d'Asie's lunch or dinner buffets, a complimentary box of Halloween cupcakes from the Pastry Corner, free use of swimming pool and gym, a daily shuttle service going to Festival Mall or Alabang Town Center, unlimited broadband Internet access, a welcome fruit platter, welcome drink at the 20/20 Bar, a copy of the local newspaper and 2 bottles of mineral water replenished daily. With all these bonuses, it would be a sin to pass up such an offer. This Halloween, bring your family for a luxurious treat. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Treats for hungry souls at InterContinental Manila

IT'S GOING TO be a swinging Halloween night at InterContinental Manila. Pop virtuoso Reuben Laurente revs up the Gambrinus Bar with his live performance of song hits from 8 p.m. onwards. An eat-all-you-can spread of yummy bar chow awaits hungry souls for only P500++ per person. Thirst quenchers are inspired by the occasion. Top drink of the night is Bewitched, a spirited mélange of scotch, vodka, triple sec, grenadine syrup, guyabano and mango juice. Lucky guests will get a chance to win exciting door prizes. Guests in all black attire get a free Witches Brew cocktail.

Special room packages are available for Oct. 31. An overnight stay in a deluxe room inclusive of Halloween bar chow buffet for two at Gambrinus Bar and buffet breakfast for two at Café Jeepney the following day will only be for P5,000 net. The package is subject to room availability so it is best to book early. For inquiries and reservations, please call 815 9711.



THOUSAND CRANES OPENS IN GREENBELT 3

Shabu-shabu lovers now have good reason to rejoice! A one-stop shabu-shabu, yakiniku and Japanese specialty restaurant just opened in Level 2 of Greenbelt 3 - the new Thousand Cranes Shabu-Shabu Restaurant. Just when you can't seem to decide what to have, whether shabu-shabu, yakiniku or Japanese fare, Thousand Cranes will satisfy your cravings for all three. Good food is certainly a source of sustenance and longevity. Traditionally, it is best associated with festive celebrations and intimate gatherings. At Thousand Cranes, they aim to relive both legend and tradition that celebrates life itself - with a rich bounty of the earth and the sea and a promise of good fortune and peace for all. Visit Thousand Cranes Shabu-Shabu at Level 2, Greenbelt 3. Tel. nos. 729-8640 to 41; 0922-8298641.

Halloween adventure at The Shangri-La

IT'S A HOWLING ADVENTURE ON HALLow's Eve, as Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa presents a Children's Halloween Party on Oct. 31, at the resort's Adventure Zone.

Trick or treating starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Adventure Zone registration area. Children ages four to 12 years old may participate in the activity, whether in-house or walk-in guests, so long as they register for the event and come in costume. For only P450 net, the package includes trick or treating, followed by a special Children's Dinner Party, entertainment and games, and a magic show.

The Adventure Zone, a multi-level playground, is popular with children, who can swing on ropes, climb up and down nets and ladders, and crawl through shapes and heights of safely padded vinyl. Well-trained staff supervises each section of Adventure Zone, to ensure a fun and safe experience for both child and parent. Among the highlights of the playground are the Rainbow Slide, the Net Swing, and the 180-degree vertical Drop Slide. Children are reminded to bring long-sleeved shirts and socks when playing in the Adventure Zone.

Families who want to use the resort's outdoor facilities for the whole day may avail of the Day in Paradise pass. The pass includes complimentary use of the beach and two swimming pools with towels, buffet lunch at Tides restaurant, complementary use of sauna and steam bath, and savings off salon services or foot reflexology at the Health Club. Moreover, children below three years old may dine free when accompanied by parents.

For reservations and other inquiries, call 231-0288 extension 68253, e-mail mac@shangri-la.com or visit www.shangri-la.com.

House of Horrors at Dusit

DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO PRESENTS 'HALloween Classics at Dusit Hotel' via the House of Horrors on Saturday, Oct. 27, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fiesta San Miguel. Patrons who partake of the kiddie lunch buffet priced at P400 net on Oct. 27 at Fiesta San Miguel, gains access to the event. Experience goose bumps as classic Halloween characters like Frankenstein, Werewolf, Count Dracula, Witches, Zombies, Mummies and White Ladies welcomes you as you enter the House of Horror. Be awed with the mind-boggling illusions of magic show and listen to nerve-wrecking spooky ghost stories ever told. Have fun with the parlor games and show off your scariest costume in the best in costume contest and get the chance to win exciting prizes from Enchanted Kingdom, Learning is Fun, and Toy Kingdom. Plus join the 'trick or treat' activity and bring home goodies like jolly biscuits, ricoa mini puffs, clover, cheezee, jellyace, grand alpha tech and regent products. For inquiries, call Dusit Hotel Nikko at 867-3333.

Astoria Plaza's spooks come to (after) life

ADULTS ENJOY HALLOWEEN TOO! AFTER ALL, ANY HOLIDAY BASED on free candy, playing tricks and wearing costumes is just too good to leave to the kids. But why play it safe at home? This year spend Halloween in Astoria Plaza's expansive suites, where spooky legends take on an afterlife of their own. Book for a minimum of 2 nights at any of Astoria Plaza's generously sized suites and get a one time complimentary massage for 2 persons at Stresscape Wellness Spa. From Oct. 31 to Nov. 3, check-in at Astoria's 1 bedroom suite for only P3,580++ per night and 2 bedroom suite for only P5,750++ per night. A perfect choice for happy haunting this Halloween. Astoria Plaza is located at #15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries and reservations call 687-1111 or visit www.astoriaplaza.com. Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts Corp.

'Pangangaluluwa' at Palaisdaan Resto

PALAISDAAN RESTAURANT, Quezon province's premiere country dining restaurant located in the city Tayabas, is celebrating the annual Christian feast in honor of all the saints and the souls of the faithful departed via "Pangangaluluwa", a traditional Halloween ritual of the Tayabasin.

To re-enact this ritual, Rene de los Santos, manager of Palaisdaan Restaurant, tapped the talents of Susi ng Tayabas, Quezon's most seasoned theater group. They will go from table to table, cottage to cottage to recite the prayers and sing the song for the faithful departed of the diners. A special candle called "Kandilang Pangangaluluwa" will be given to the head of the host family who in turn lights it as a prayer about resurrection is being recited.

For this special event, Palaisdaan and its brigade of expert cooks has prepared palate- pleasing country menus like pinais, pinangat, sinugno, ginataang pako, tinutung lain and pancit habhab. These delectable dishes, traditional songs and prayers will not just be a boon for the soul of the dead but for the living as well as they experience a unique and truly Filipino way of celebrating a traditional Halloween amid the bucolic ambiance of Palaisdaan Restaurant.

For inquiries and reservation, call (042) 793-3529 or visit www.palaisdaan.com.ph. *D. Norman F. Ragudo*

MEMBERS of Susi ng Tayabas re-enact 'Pangangaluluwa' through traditional songs and prayers for the dead.

Conway's Conway's Bar 813 8888 ext. 7026
Mey Lin Mey Lin Pot & Noodle House 899 6688 / 899 8999
Tony Roma's Tony Roma's Restaurants 757 1926 / 771 1388
Island Island Foot & Body Wellness 899 1234 / 751 8296
Cafe Mediterranean Greenbelt 894-4032
Bo's Coffee Club
The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf
Causeway Causeway Seafood Restaurant 24 Timog Ave, Q.C. 376-2559
Clawdaddy Crabhouse and American Grill 636-5679
Heaven 'n Eggs (02) 818-2792 (02) 889-3791
Kalye Juan 0920-94-kalye
Sushi-Ya 0917 84-sushi
Tong Yang Shabu-Shabu & BBQ Restaurant 899 3388 / 897 4148
Palaisdaan Restaurant Barangay Dapdap, Tayabas, Quezon (042) 793-3529
Lola Maria Coffeeshop 60 Pioneer St. Mandaluyong City 633-1501 to 10
FJ's Grill 24 Timog Ave, Q.C. 376-2559
The Old Spaghetti House 687-6630
North Park 73737
MUSEUM CAFÉ Ayala Museum, Greenbelt 4 757-3000 757-6000
Kopiroti Davao (082)3016009
Chelsea Chelsea Market & Cafe 909-7011 909-7012

1

AIZA wakes up in her old room in their house in Cubao. She recently moved to her own place in Quezon City.

SUPERFRESH

SLIDESHOW

Ready, set, slide

We give a celeb a camera and you get to watch the stars come out to play

By Pam Pastor

THE FIRST THING you notice about Aiza Seguerra is how real she is.

Sure, you may get distracted by the colorful tattoos covering her arms or the multiple bands that adorn her wrist, but you are quickly struck by how grounded, how normal, how regular she seems.

And that's quite a feat for someone who literally grew up in the crazy world of show business.

She says she has her parents to thank for that. "They made it a point that I had a normal childhood. I was able to play. I went to school." And ego-massaging wasn't their style. "They're my critics. *Hindi nila hinayaang lumaki ang ulo ko.*"

Aiza has spent 20 years of her life in the industry. She broke into the scene at the age of three, became a mainstay on "Eat Bulaga" and did a slew of movies that are still shown on cable TV to this day—including one in which she plays a magical duckling. For a short time she disappeared from the spotlight (a time she refers to as "the awkward years") but she emerged from her pseudo-hibernation armed with her guitar and a strong and smooth voice that few people realized she possessed.

Aiza, the girl who was not offered roles in teenybopper movies because she just didn't fit the stereotype, gave people a new reason to embrace her—her music.

She is currently promoting her new album, "Para Lang Sayo," a 12-track CD that includes original songs and two revivals. While she has devoted a lot of time to music, she hasn't let go of acting either.

She was part of the first run of "Avenue Q." Isabela, the soap opera she's part of, is just about to end. And she has finished filming another movie for the film festival at the end of the year.

She says she can't choose between singing and acting. "I love doing both," she said. "*Pag di ko ginagawa yung isa sa kanila ng matagal, namimiss ko.*"

She obviously loves her job. "I am happy I am able to do the things that I like while getting paid for it. *Ang dami kong nakikilala, kung saan saan ako nakakapunta . Since gusto ko yun ginagawa ko, lahat parang bakasyon.*"

She's not a big fan of intrigue though. And strangely, despite the fact that she has been so open about her life—even her sexuality—gossip-hungry writers still manage to find ways to attack her and her loved ones, including her mom and her girlfriend. "*Kung wala silang makuha sa akin, gagawan nila ng kwento yung mga mahal ko.*" Aiza finds this unfair because "*hindi naman sila artista.*"

But she has managed to find the balance between fulfilling her duties as a public persona and keeping her privacy. When she's not working, she's just a regular 24-year-old who loves her dogs and likes watching movies and reading true crime books.

Perhaps that is the magic of Aiza Seguerra—her ability to exist in the system without being sucked into it, her skill at finding the balance between the real and the make believe, things many have abandoned in the quest for stardom.

Aiza will be in Lucena today, Legaspi City on Oct. 31, Sta. Lucia East Mall on Nov. 9 and Conspiracy on Nov. 13 and 27. She will also be part of the second run of Avenue Q in December.

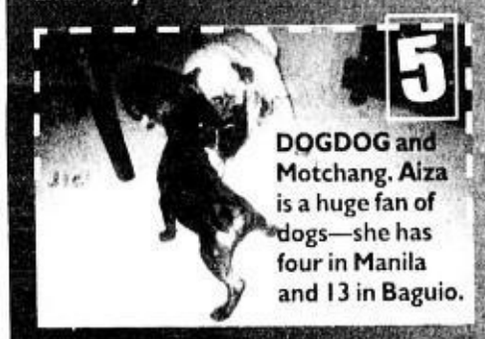
2

PUPPY LOVE. Aiza in bed with Porky, her beloved Mini Pug.

3

BIG BREAKFAST. With her mom in their Cubao home

AIZA'S nephew Aaron with her mom and Porky



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DOGDOG and Motchang. Aiza is a huge fan of dogs—she has four in Manila and 13 in Baguio.

6

IN THE CAR with Tony Boy on the way to the salon

7

AIZA drops by the salon for a haircut

IN HER AVENUE Q dressing room with Frenchie, Rachel Alejandro and Rycharde Everley

8

THE SLIDESHOW BEGINS

There used to be a time when we would trail celebrities for 24 hours straight. But it wasn't always easy. Some of them got uncomfortable, some of them wanted a break from our stalking, some of them just didn't want to do it. And so we had a better idea. We partnered with Kodak and handed some of your favorite personalities disposable cameras so they can take snapshots of their life. We get the cameras back, Kodak works their magic, we wave our wand (actually, we pound away on our keyboards and click our mouse like crazy) and we all end up with a spread that shows you the life of your favorite personalities in and out of the spotlight. Enjoy! Who else do you want to see on Slideshow? **E-mail us at super@inquirer.com.ph.**

13

12

AVENUE Q was a great experience for Aiza. "*Nag*-bonding *kami lahat*," she said.

WITH Teenee Chan

FELIX Rivera and Rachel Alejandro

WITH Joel Trinidad

9

MONSTER SM MASQUERADE AT SM SUPERMALLS

EVENTS LINE-UP

HAVE A FABULOUS HALLOWEEN BALL!

All Metro Manila Malls:

Costume Contest
Come in your most fabulous Halloween Costume!
October 31-Wednesday
10AM-1PM Registration (for walk-in applicants)
2PM Contest Proper
See mechanics poster.

Trick Or Treat
Visit participating stores for special treats!
October 31-In all malls
10AM-2PM and 5PM-7PM

SM Megamall
- **October 27 & 28,** Creepy Cauldron Of Halloween Treats

SM City Fairview
- **October 28,** Super Inggo Halloween Party

SM City Manila
- **October 27, 28, 29 & 30,** Thriller in Manila-Thriller Dance Performances

SM City San Lazaro
- **October 28,** Mascot and Costume Parade

SM Southmall
- **October 27,** Halloween Statue Mimes Photo-opp
- **October 28,** Super Inggo Halloween Party

SM City Sucat
- **October 28,** Halloween Statue Mimes Photo-opp, Fun Day with McDonald's

SM City North Edsa
- **October 28,** Super Inggo Halloween Party

SM City Sta. Mesa
- **October 28,** Mask-uerade Parade and Mad Science Show

All Provincial Luzon Malls:

SM City Marilao
- **October 31**-The Event Center
  10AM Start of Trick or Treat • 10AM-12NN Registration for Costume Contest • 11AM Mascot Parade • 1PM-3PM Halloween Costume Contest Judging • 3PM-4PM Storyland Magic Show • 4PM Announcement of Winners

SM Supercenter Molino
- **October 31**
  Halloween Trick or Treat & Costume Contest with Magic Show & Balloon Twisting

SM City Dasmarinas
- **October 27**
  Jollibee Kiddie Jamboree
- **October 29-30**
  Kids' Fun Day at the Mall: Magic Show, Face Painting, Bubble Show & Balloon Twisting
- **October 31**
  10AM Halloween Trick or Treat • 2PM Halloween Costume Contest

SM City Lipa
- **October 30**
  Jollibee Halloween Kids' Fun Day Mall Parade / Face Painting / Balloon Twisting / Puppet Show
- **October 31**
  10AM-7PM Trick or Treat • 10AM Acrobatic Show • 1PM-2PM Magician • 2PM Masquerade Ball / Costume Contest

SM City Sta. Rosa
- **October 31**
  10AM-5PM Trick or Treat • 12NN Mascot Parade & Mardi Gras • 1PM Halloween Costume Contest

SM City Clark
- **October 31**-The Event Center
  10AM Start of Trick or Treat • 10AM-12NN Registration for Costume Contest • 11AM-12NN Bubble Show • 1PM Kids' Costume Parade • 2PM Announcement of Costume Contest Winners
- **October 31**-SM Food Court
  6PM Halloween Puppet Show

SM City Pampanga
- **October 28**
  11AM & 3PM Halloween Hall Brigade • 4PM McFairyland Party with McDonald's
- **October 29**
  11AM Basic Thoughts Learning Center Halloween Costume Contest
- **October 31**
  10AM-12NN • 3PM-5PM Trick or Treat • 1PM Halloween Costume Contest

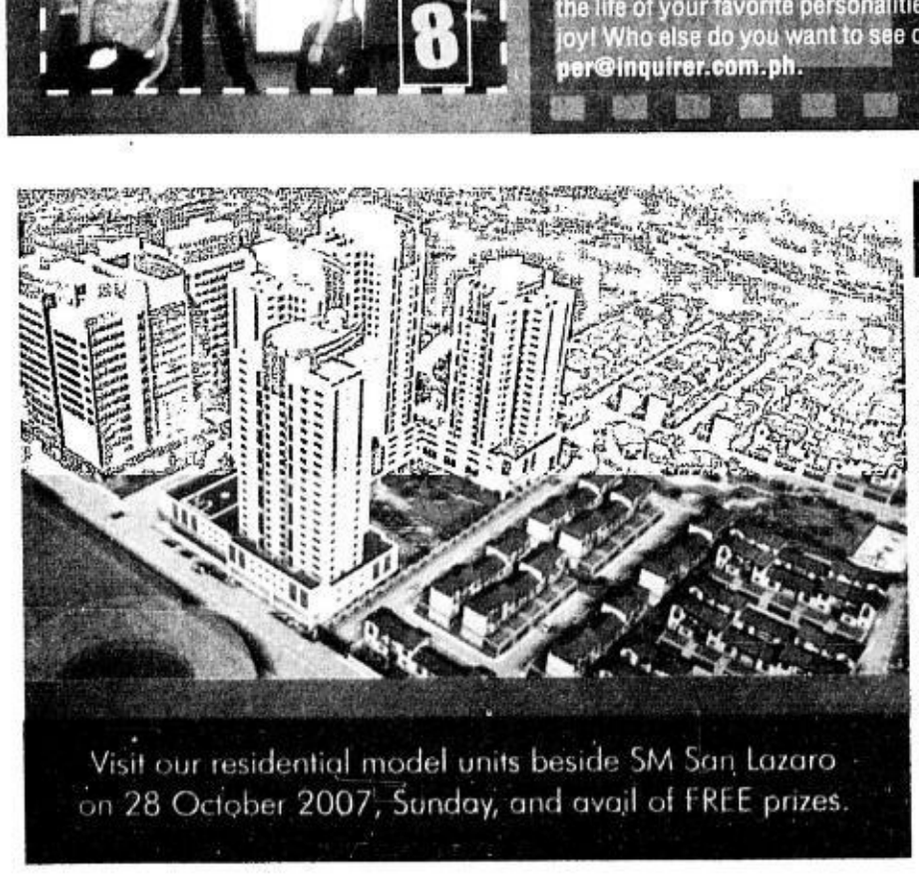
SM City Cebu
- **October 27-28**
  Jollibee Kids Club Boo-lit Fantasy Masquerade
- **October 28**
  Storyland Halloween
- **October 29**
  Skycable I-Club Spooktacular Mask on Parade
- **October 31**
  Trick or Treat and Costume Contest

SM City Iloilo
- **October 25-31**
  Horror House
- **October 27**
  Masquerade and Foodfestival Carpark
- **October 29**
  SM Storyland's Monster Jam
- **October 31**
  Jollibeeland Beestacular Treats, Grand Halloween Parade, Costume Contest, Trick Or Treat

SM City Cagayan de Oro
- **October 27**-The Event Center
  10AM-2PM Jollibee Kids Club Halloween Fun Day
- **October 28** -The Event Center
  10AM-12NN Pre Halloween Kids Show with Pizza Hut and Star Appliance
- **Oct 27 & 28**-The Event Center
  4PM-5PM Halloween Fashion Show and Photo Exhibit - Ateneo Camera Club
- **October 30**-The Event Center
  4PM Thriller Remix Dance Contest
- **October 31**-Mall Area
  10AM-12NN & 3PM- 5PM Trick or Treat • 2PM Costume Contest

SM City Bacolod
- **October 27**
  Nazareth Institute Pre-school "Snow White at the Neverland" Halloween Presentation
- **October 27-30**-The Event Center
  Negros Museum & Labworks Present WaxWorks: Live Mannequin in Exhibit
- **October 28** -The Event Center
  Sikat TV Halloween Special
- **October 31**-Mall Area
  11AM-12NN & 4PM-6PM Trick or Treat • 2PM Costume Contest
  Black Vanity: The Dark Side of Fashion • 6PM 2007 Halloween Runway Show

SM City Davao
  10AM-12NN & 3PM-5PM Trick or Treat • 1:15PM-2PM Mall Wide Halloween Costume Parade • 2PM-4PM Halloween Costume Contest



Visit our residential model units beside SM San Lazaro on 28 October 2007, Sunday, and avail of FREE prizes.

Ayala Land's New Frontier in Manila

The rise of an innovative integrated development charts a new frontier in Manila as it is given a lifestyle anchor consistent with the city's progressive potential.

Celadon Manila, the leisure community from Ayala Land's subsidiaries, offers the opportunity for people to live, work, shop, meet, and relax in one integrated neighborhood—underscoring a vibrant lifestyle experience.

The 6-hectare in-city development is comprised of three distinct elements that characterize a cohesive urban ecosystem:

Shops at Celadon (Ayala Malls)

Offering a lively variety of shopping, dining and leisure options, Shops at Celadon by Ayala Malls is set to define a new dining & leisure experience in Manila. The commercial area will offer a tenant mix that is attuned to the needs and lifestyles of those living and working within the development.

Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) site (Ayala Land's Corporate Business Group)

The ease of living and working in the city is further emphasized by the development of the biggest BPO (business process outsourcing) site in Manila, courtesy of the Ayala Land's Commercial Business Group. Strategically planned to address the industry's unique requirements, Celadon Manila's BPO center will be the first call center site in Manila with retail and leisure amenities open at extended hours to complement the industry's demanding work environment.

Residential District (Community Innovations)

Celadon Residences (townhomes) and Celadon Park (condominiums), offer a refreshing take on residential living in Uptown Manila. The two residential districts within Celadon Manila, developed by Community Innovations, promises a vibrant lifestyle experience within this progressive development, combining the ease of urban essentials inside an integrated community with leisure at its core.

Celadon Manila's integration of a distinctive retail experience, career advancement and an uptown leisure lifestyle complements the rich and diverse culture of Manila. The seamless synergy of retail, commercial and residential developments in an urban ecosystem managed by Ayala Malls, Ayala Land Commercial Business Group and Community Innovations, paves the way for a holistic transformation of the city.

Community Innovations is Ayala Land's standard-bearer for innovation in residential living. It builds balanced, harmonious communities where the living experience enhances the lifestyle aspirations of its customers. For inquiries, call (02) 712-0963, visit the website at www.celadonmanila.com or email to cli-sales@ayalaland.com.ph

Celadon Manila

SATURDAY SUPER SPECIAL

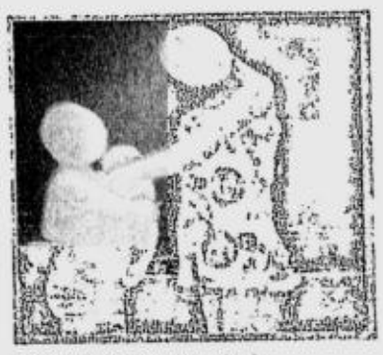
Aman and his Art

By Katrina A. Holigores

THE GARGANTUAN task of having to explain art is best left to experts. Being lucky enough to have viewed all sorts of "art" has not upped my aesthetic I.Q. as far as I'm concerned and I simply stick to the no-fail reasoning of "I just know what I like." The appreciation of art in my opinion (for us plebians) should be more intuitive and impulsive to a degree. Sure, it's always good to think of a piece of art as an eventual investment or treasure, or to know the nuances of why one is more "valuable" than the other. But, if I had to choose between a painting that would give me nightmares (and eventually a gazillion bucks in value) over something that is just plain nice to look at (and who knows how much it will be worth one day) I'll take a gamble and pick the latter. It's great though if you could, even without being a graduate of High Brow Art Appreciation 101 to be able to find a combination of both. Imagine my pleasure when I popped into the Bluewater Gallery in Cebu recently and discovered an old schoolmate with a brand new talent... he could paint, and boy, could Aman paint.

PULL (Belmar series) oil on canvas

SHADE (Belmar series)



FLOAT (Belmar series)

JOSHUA and Jeffrey (previous work) acrylic and charcoal

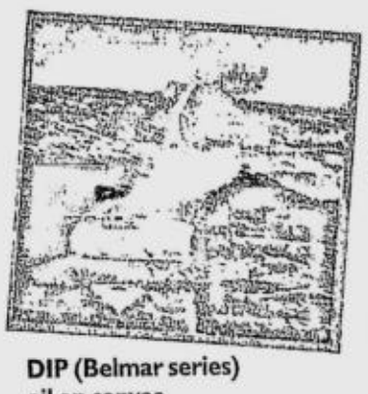
Aman Santos III has a CV that would impress anyone and a schedule that would exhaust everyone. He paints, designs, teaches and due to his pre-art life as a physical therapist, probably feels the need to heal every once in a while. Yet in spite of a super busy life, he manages to look like a local Harry Potter, with his glasses and youthful demeanor. I felt that even if we were in school together he must have discovered moisturizer long before I did. His paintings though exhibit both a maturity and a wistfulness that can only come from a life full of rich memories. Some may have been painful, but again, due to adulthood, were represented through a more lighthearted reflection.

The Belmar series (six works in oil on canvas) at Bluewater displayed various subjects spending their time on the beach. The subjects were faceless and were set against an array of colors. They also seemed caught up in "swirls" that wrapped around them. "I've always chosen them to be faceless to encourage viewers to make a story of their own," explained Aman. "I believe that human beings share similar experiences or 'moments' in one or several points in their lives. The Belmar series is a thematic return to figurative work from my last exhibit 'SWEEP, 2004' in El Comedor, Makati. Since 2005, I have shifted to non-representational abstraction and the Bluewater exhibit is a momentary return to the previous idiom. The swathes of paint is a gestural interpretation of sweeping incidences in our lives, a flow that each moment of connection by two people brings. UP CFA Prof. Dakila A. Fernando once wrote in my exhibition catalogue, 'The images are in fact moving that viewers feel the comfort and warmth of being intimately attached.'"

When questioned about his shift (or I later find out, actually a return) to art, Aman answers simply, "I have always been painting as a child and my gradeschool and highschool (Maria Montessori) always taught us to be multifaceted and multitalented. But in 1997, our family experienced a domestic separation that triggered me to take up my brushes and paint. Although it was always my interest to dip my hand into some form of creative work. Even during my physical therapy days, I would be caught making hand-painted shirts for local resorts, painting murals and creating effigies for street demonstrations, and tweaking some graphic design work for corporate clients. It was in 1996 that I decided to set aside my PT career and go full time in the realm of creative work using art. It's a different fulfillment that goes beyond physical wellness."

Perhaps if you see his work, you may be able to explain to me what about it is good, or bad, brilliant or trivial. All I know is that if any of these works were hanging in my personal space, I'd sleep easy and wake up the next morning longing for the sea.

The Belmar Series is currently part of a three man exhibit called The Art of Three at The Bluewater Gallery, Maribago Bluewater Resort, Cebu. For more information call Juliet Amazona at (032) 492-1808 or 232-5411. For more information on Aman Santos III, e-mail: aman_santos@yahoo.com



DIP (Belmar series) oil on canvas

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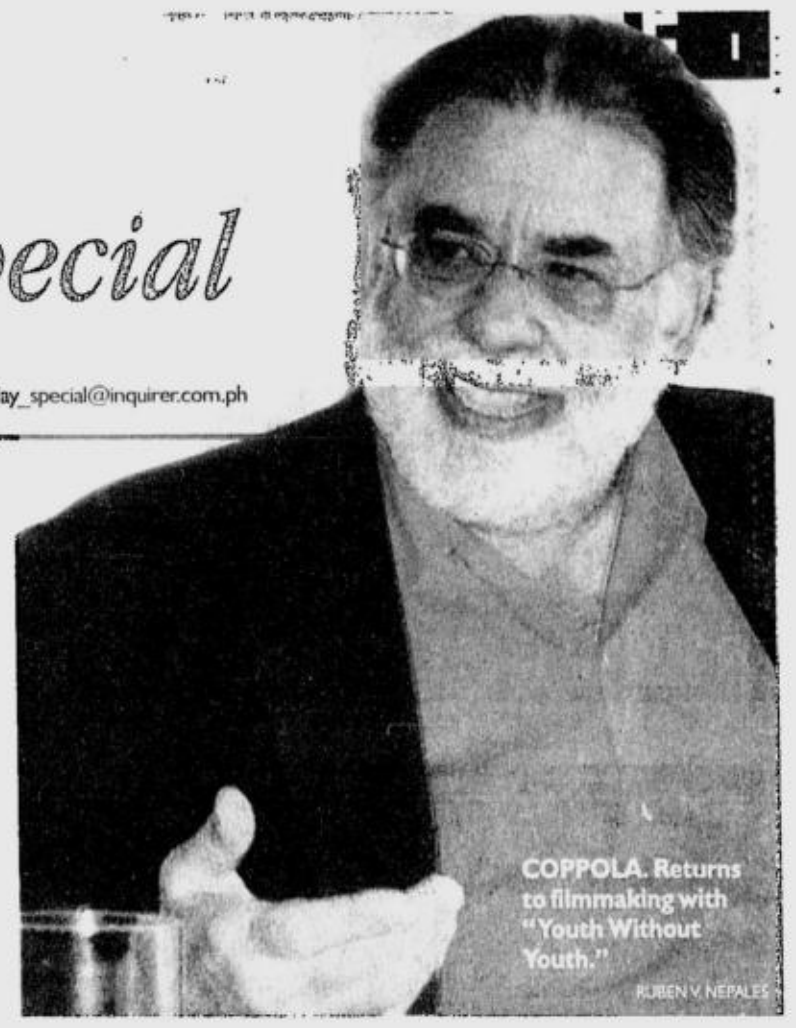
Francis Ford Coppola 'forever grateful' to Filipinos



COPPOLA. Returns to filmmaking with "Youth Without Youth." RUBEN V. NEPALES

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Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"THE FILIPINO PEOPLE were generous and worked so hard with us. We will forever be affectionate toward them!"

Those were the sentiments expressed by director Francis Ford Coppola when we recently asked him about making "Apocalypse Now" in the Philippines. "*Salamat po!*," he said to us twice.

It has been 32 years since one of cinema's greatest directors began filming his Vietnam War masterpiece in Laguna and other parts of the country. Hailed as a genius for his innovations in the landmark film—including the use of Wagner's "The Ride of the Valkyries" in a scene involving attacking helicopters—Coppola won the Cannes' coveted Palme d'Or in 1979. An anniversary edition, "Apocalypse Now Redux," includes 49 minutes of additional footage.

Debacles

But, the making of "Apocalypse" also took its personal and financial toll on the director. Francis' wife, Eleanor, chronicled his debacles, including incidents that threatened their marriage, in the documentary, "Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse."

The director mortgaged his winery estate to finance the movie. While the film made some money, it took a while before Coppola regained his financial bearings.

In our interview, he volunteered how his daughter, Sofia, a child back then but now also a respected filmmaker, tried to stop folks from delivering foreclosure papers at the porch of their Napa Valley home in California, which she likened to Tara, Scarlet O'Hara's beloved estate in "Gone With the Wind."

Today, the California winery is so successful that it has allowed the filmmaker to keep the house and make the kind of movies he wants to do. After many years, the first film from the director is "Youth Without Youth," which premiered at the Rome Film Festival recently, about a linguistics professor (Tim

FRANCIS/ F2

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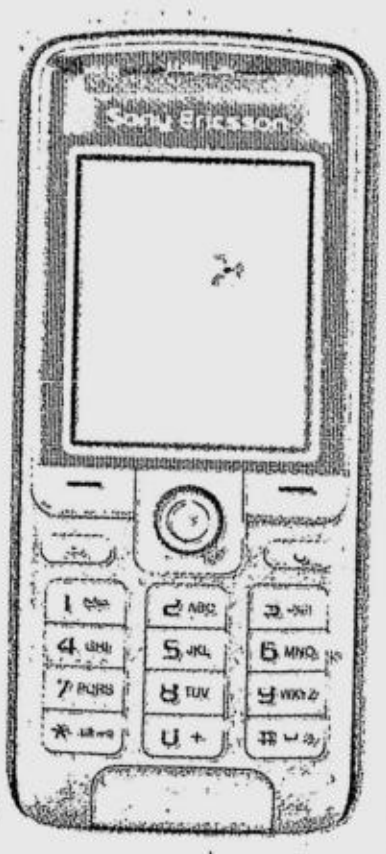

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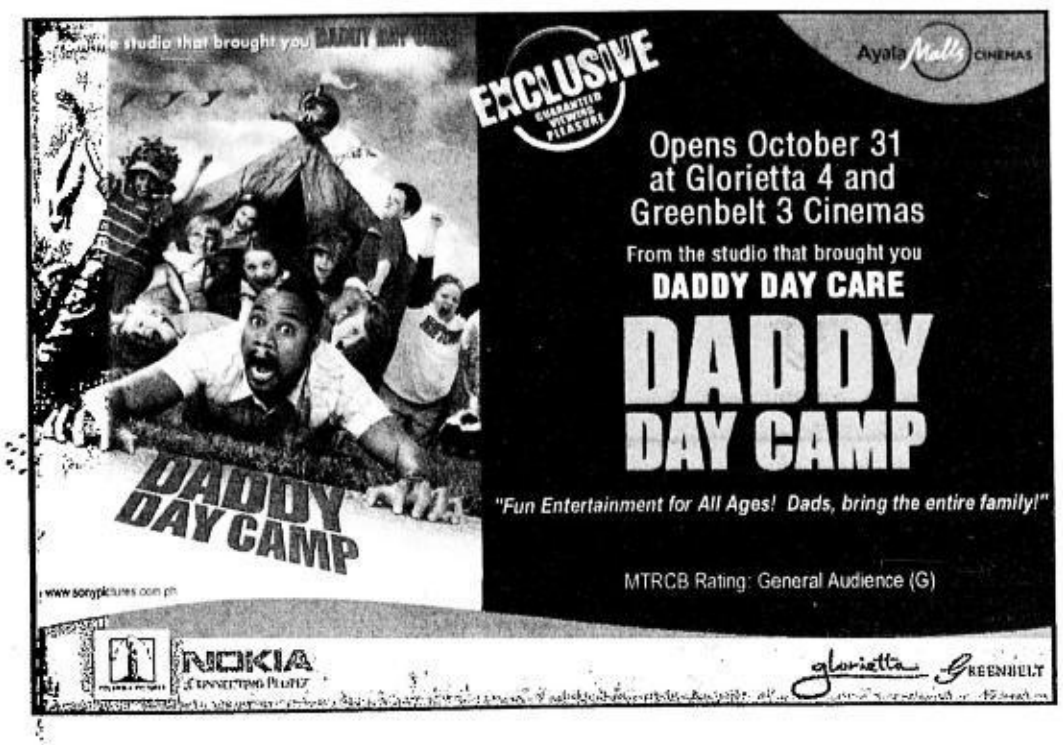
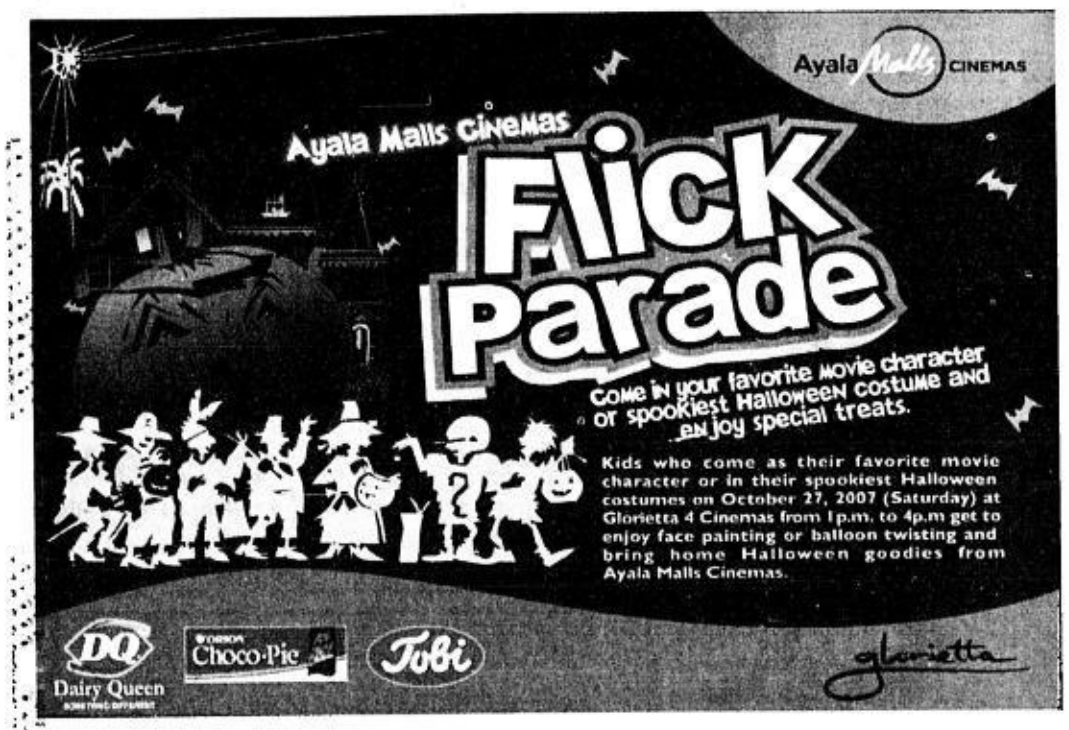
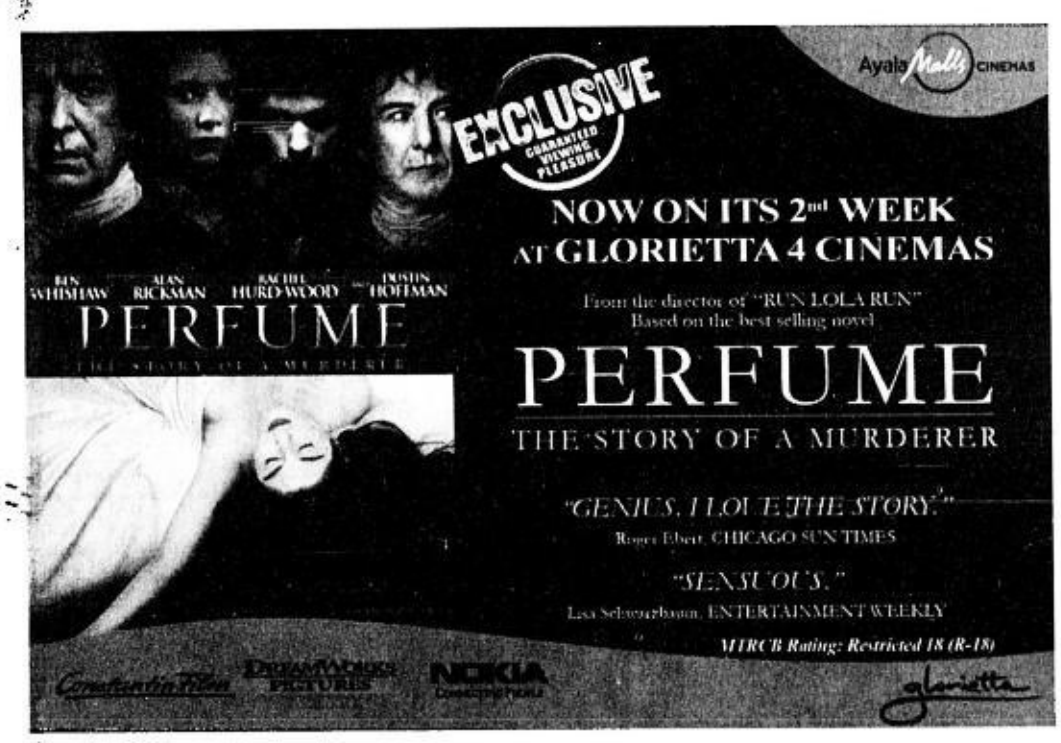
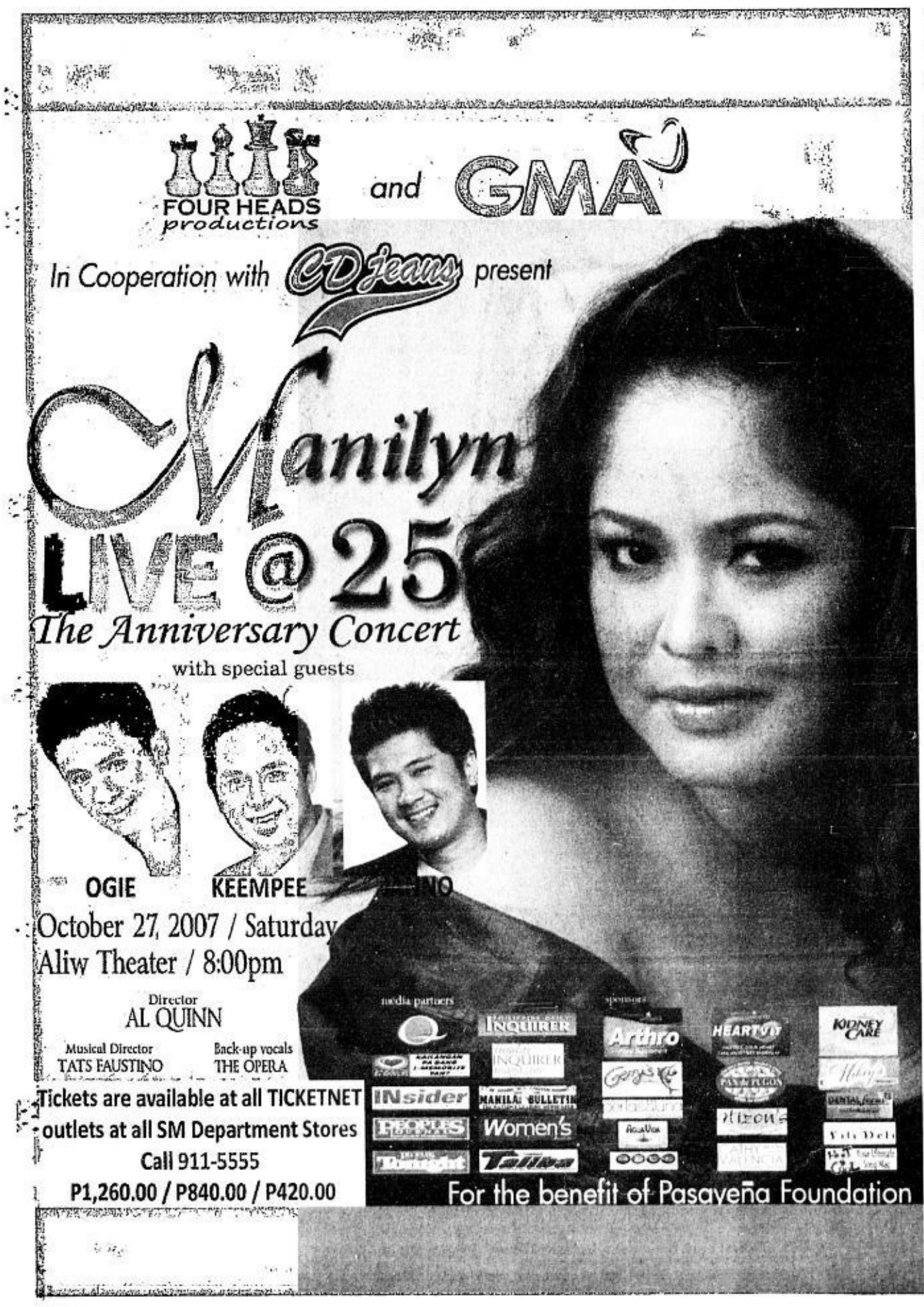








NOW SHOWING

Gyllenhaal, Witherspoon and Streep pose moral questions in pulse-pounding thriller

By Rito P. Asilo

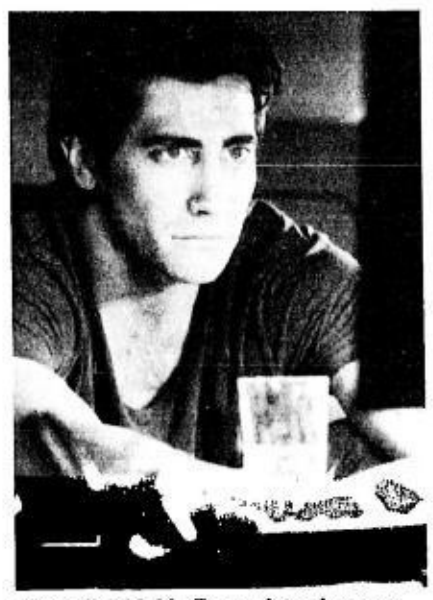
"Rendition"
D: Gavin Hood
S: Jake Gyllenhaal, Reese Witherspoon and Meryl Streep

HOW FAR CAN GOVERNMENTS GO to win the war against terrorism? Gavin Hood's terrifying dramatic thriller, "Rendition," poses the contentious question and opens the discussion about the moral ramifications of the American government's extrajudicial policy on "extraordinary rendition"—a practice that involves the transfer of suspected terrorists to a secret facility overseas, where arbitrarily-detained prisoners are subjected to "enhanced" interrogation techniques.

The film follows the story of Egypt-born, Chicago-based American chemical engineer, Anwar El-Ibrahimi (Omar Metwally, "Munich"), who's abducted by the CIA at an airport in Washington from a conference in South Africa. He is suspected of being involved in a suicide bombing in the Middle East that results in the death of a CIA operative.

In a dark and dank dungeon in an unspecified North African country, the whimpering Anwar is beaten to a pulp as he goes through police chief, Abasi Fawal's (Igal Naor) unorthodox interrogation methods.

Watching over the gory proceedings is CIA agent Douglas Freeman (Jake Gyllenhaal), whose initially detached demeanor slowly turns into reluctance and defiance: Do the ends justify the means?


GYLLENHAAL. From detachment to defiance.

Back in the US, Corrinne Whitman (Meryl Streep), the ice-cold intelligence official who runs the CIA's "rendition" program, trades verbal blows and legal jargon with senatorial aide, Alan Smith (Peter Sarsgaard), who launches the search for the missing Anwar after former flame, Isabella (Reese Witherspoon)—now Anwar's wife—seeks his help. When push comes to shove, however, he's forced to choose between friendship and ambition.

Director Hood, who helmed South Africa's Oscar-winning 2005 feature, "Tsotsi" (and who's slated to direct the much-anticipated "X-Men" spinoff, "Wolverine," starring Hugh Jackman), delivers a breathtakingly powerful thriller that, while focusing on one man's disappearance, interweaves the lives of many people across the globe.

The film is not perfect (events leading to the story's resolution feel forced, and the many issues it squeezes into the narrative tend to blur its focus and clutter its flow). But the production nevertheless delivers edge-of-your-seat entertainment even as it presents timely issues that simmer and throb with social and moral pertinence.

With nail-biting precision and pulse-pounding action, the movie discusses themes that go beyond man's ideological, racial or political battles. Its message inspires: The world we inhabit may have become more cynical and apathetic, but as long as people are still willing to stick out their necks for what's right, hope springs eternal for the human race!

On point of performance, the whole cast looks up to the divine Meryl Streep, who's pitch-perfect as the bureaucratic doyenne who proselytizes about her stilted advocacy with unflinching verve and conviction.

Sarsgaard, Metwally, Fawal and Alan Arkin (as well as Zineb Oukach and Moa Khouas, who portray the movie's star-crossed teenage lovers) also display considerable acting chops that transcend caricature characterization.

Even more notably, it's refreshing to see Witherspoon in a role that is neither musical nor comedic—another ace up her thespic sleeve!

Katherine Heigl does even better . . . From page F4

despite all sorts of difficulties and negative exigencies.

It isn't only the slacker who, despite himself, becomes a better person due to the daunting challenge of incipient fatherhood. The high-flying female lead character also benefits from her forced relationship with the slacker, because he teaches her to relax, to lower her unfair expectations of other people—and, to forgive!

Somewhere along the way, she also learns the real meaning of love. Even better, through her, viewers learn it as well. It really is quite amazing that a fun film like "Knocked Up" can also reward its viewers with such interesting and instructive realizations.

Much of the movie's empathetic impact is due to Rogen's utter believability as the "good slacker." Amazingly, we end up liking him even after the movie shows his many negative qualities and activities, which include occasional drug use and swearing like *10* truckdrivers.

But, the most amazing star discovery here is Katherine Heigl. The TV star ("Grey's Anatomy") proves to be a major big-screen find with her captivating and textured characterization of a lovely young woman who has a very bright future ahead of her—until she finds herself pregnant with a near-stranger's child.

KATHERINE/ F3

Francis Ford Coppola . . . From page F1

Roth) who is hit and charred by lightning.

He doesn't just survive the accident—it miraculously restores his youth! The story's theme of rejuvenation, based on a novella by Mircea Eliade, evokes Francis' own reinvigoration, as well as his renewed desire to direct personal films.

Looking like a professor at the press con, Francis knew how to charm. He was alternately moving, funny and witty. Also evident was his passion for the topics at hand—like family, wine and films (including his dream project, "Megalopolis).

In response to a question, he clarified that even a filmmaker of his stature couldn't get financing for a project he wants to do. "People think that if you're a well-known director, you can make any film you want. No one can do that! They have to make films that the studios think they'll make money from.

"So, until the day that Exxon (the giant oil firm) comes and says, 'We're going to finance any movie of Martin Scorsese or Woody Allen,' no director can do what he wants—except maybe Steven Spielberg, because the movies that Spielberg wants to make are very much what the public enjoys."

Winery

The director of the three acclaimed "Godfather" movies revealed, "I have a successful company (a winery), so I'm able to finance my films. Every year, I will make films on the level of 'Youth Without Youth.' I'll put up the money myself. I don't have time anymore to beg!"

Confessing to a desire to return to his roots, Francis admitted: "I have always wanted to be a 'personal' filmmaker, and to be inspired by the movies that I saw—from Sweden, Japan, France and Italy—when I was 18.

"In a funny way, I became a studio director when I was very young. I always thought: 'What happened to the director I wanted to be when I was 18 years old?' Maybe I can go back and be just like that!

"*Salamat po,*" he began his response to our question about the epic he made in the Philippines. "'Apocalypse Now' is a good example of what I'm talking about. Although it was a big war film, it was also a very personal movie.

"But, I couldn't even find actors who would go to the Philippines to do the film! Ultimately, I had to finance the picture by putting up the wine estate that would later make my fortune."

The list of actors who eventually went with Francis to the Philippines was impressive, even by today's standards: Marlon Brando, Martin Sheen, Robert Duvall, Dennis Hopper and some virtual unknowns then, like Harrison Ford and Laurence Fishburne (who was only 14 at the time—he lied about his age)!

Dangerous

Francis added, "I'm thrilled that we did all that in the Philippines. I'm grateful that we didn't lose lives because, as I think back, what we did was far more dangerous: We were up in helicopters flying around. The Filipino people were generous and worked so hard for us! We did that dangerous production with honor, so I'm grateful. *Salamat po!*"

Which of his movies personally affected him the most? The Oscar- and Golden Globe-winning director quickly replied, "Definitely, 'Apocalypse Now.'

"That was the most dramatic personal experience I ever had, because I not only had all my money at risk, I was also making a film that was, artistically speaking, precarious. I was in new territory!

Tough experience

"But, I love all my films. It's like having seven children and someone asks, 'Who's your favorite child?' The most disadvantaged child is always the one you love the most. So, there are certain films whose value other people don't see much of. 'One from the Heart' was a tough experience. With 'Apocalypse Now,' I thought I was going to lose all my money. With 'One from the Heart,' I *did* lose all my money!"

"'The Conversation' is another film that I love the most, because I wrote and directed it. I've always wanted to be a writer-director—that was my greatest aspiration. I hope I can make some more of those films before I go off to the great vineyard in the sky!"

(To be continued tomorrow)

E-mail rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com, and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

Israel waives visa . . . From page F4

a company priority. We cherish every traveler who visits our country. We invest in technology to give the best service. I apologize in advance for any inconvenience during security checks." He even went so far to say that Israel is the safest country in the world!

Versatility, unique sense of humor boosted Jimmy Durante's popularity

By Behn Cervantes

JIMMY DURANTE WAS ONE OF AMERICA'S most beloved entertainers. He was so successful that he was prominent in all forms of popular entertainment for almost a decade. He was respected for his versatility—he was a comedian, a singer, a pianist and an actor. He appeared with such legends as Buster Keaton, Esther Williams and Frank Sinatra.

Durante was born to working-class parents in New York City in 1883. While in the eighth grade, he dropped out of school to perform as a ragtime pianist with the celebrated New Orleans Band, which was later renamed the Jimmy Durante Band.

Most distinctive

He stood out as a gravel-voiced entertainer with a unique sense of humor. He was not above poking fun at himself. Since his large nose was his most distinctive physical attribute, he later christened himself Schnozzola.

In the 1920s, he was performing on radio and on the vaudeville circuit. The unconventional entertainer had a performing trademark: He'd break into a song to deliver jokes while a band punctuated his delivery.

He was so distinctive that he was often copied by other entertainers. In the film, "The Man Who Came to Dinner," however, he portrayed a character who was obviously based on another legendary comic: Harpo Marx.

TV program

He eventually hosted his own TV program, "The Jimmy Durante Show." It was in that show that the legendary Carmen Miranda appeared for the last time. During a frenzied number, Miranda slipped and soon after, complained of pain. She went home—and died!

Jimmy's opening line was "Inka Dinka Doo," and ended his shows with "Good night, Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are!" He never revealed what that farewell line meant, but people believed that it was addressed to his late wife, Jeanne Olsen, who died on Valentine's Day in 1943. He eventually remarried.

Durante continued to be active until the '70s ("It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World"). In 1963, he recorded a collection of vintage favorites in the album, "September Song," that included the classic, "As Time Goes By." He continued to be involved in charities for children's welfare until his death on Jan. 29, 1980.

Warmth

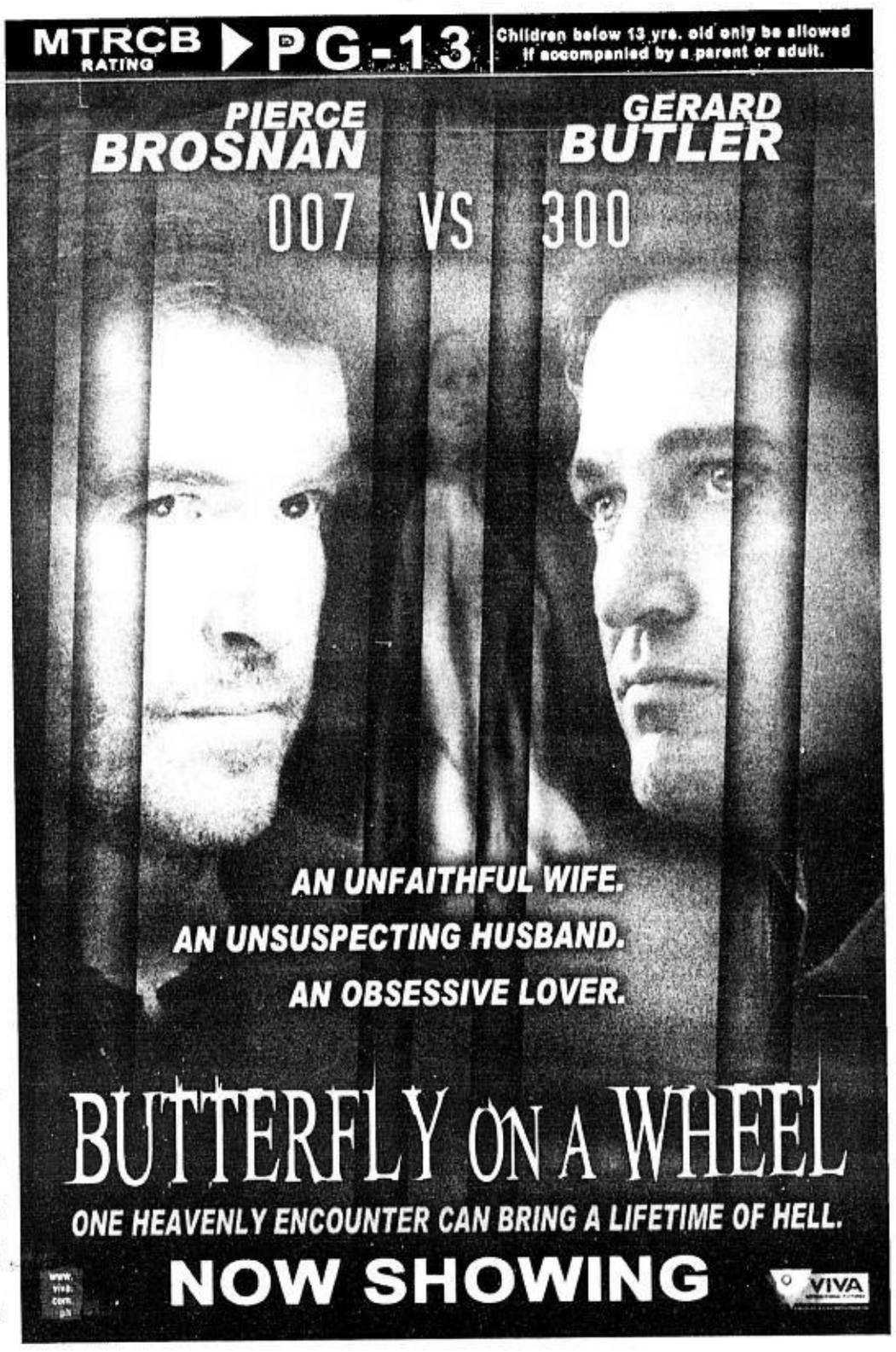
To this day, the performer remains a highly-esteemed entertainer known for his warmth. He was so well-loved that a fellow comedian once said: "You could warm your hands with this man!"

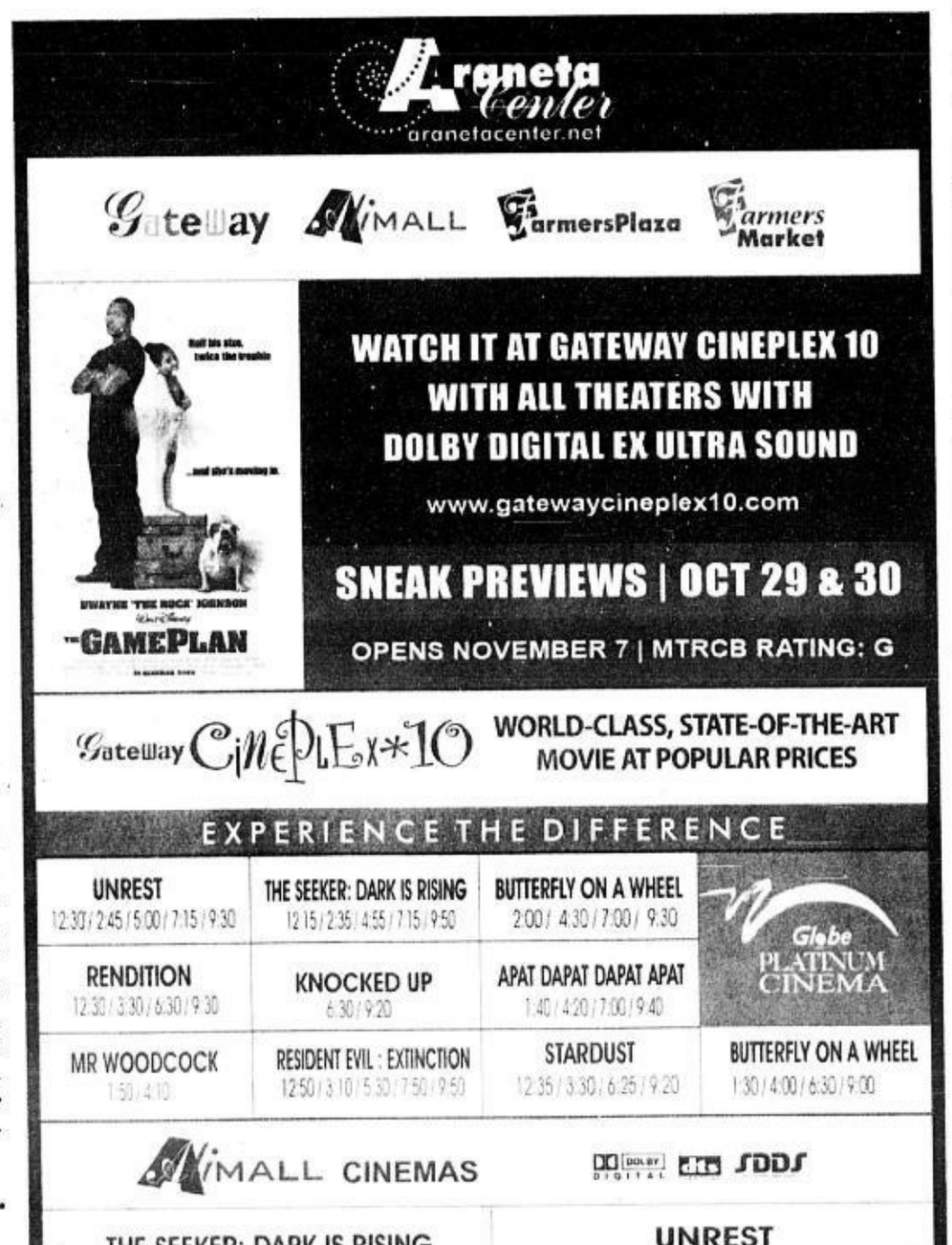
DURANTE. He wasn't above poking fun at himself—and his signature nose!

Katherine...

From page F2

Heigl is able to hit all of her character's high and low notes with perfect thespic pitch. She's one of the few beautiful actresses around who doesn't bank on her exceptional looks to sustain viewers' attention—and yet, even as she's screwing up her face and character to vivify all the conflicting aspects of her role, she never ceases to look lovely. It's quite a feat!





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4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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2 THREE
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4 STARDUST
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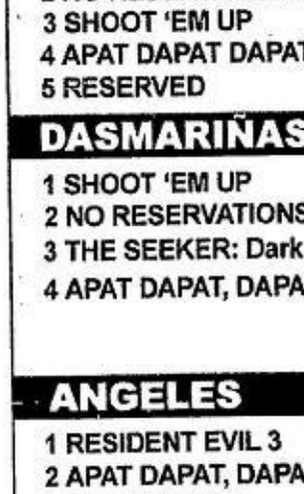
2 RETRIBUTION
3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
4 KNOCKED UP
5 DECEMBER BOYS
6 NO RESERVATIONS



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Cinemalaya

Acting is Noni Buencamino's bread and butter

By Remy M. Umerez

TALK ABOUT INDIE FILMS AND YOU'LL surely come across the name of Noni Buencamino. He's one of the stars of "Ataul for Rent," which recently was graded A by the Cinema Evaluation Board.

Profession

Directed by Neal Tan, the movie is a social satire depicting the lives of urban slum dwellers. It tells the story of Guido, a small-time funeral parlor owner who makes his living renting out caskets to his neighbors. In our brief chat with the acclaimed actor, he talks about his profession. Excerpts:

What does acting mean to you?

I can't think of any job I'm more comfortable with. It's my bread and butter.

Who brought you to the acting profession?

Two persons influenced me to become an actor: Playwright Paul Yumol encouraged me to take part in school plays and declamation contests in seventh grade, but it was Nonon Padilla who gave me extensive classes in acting.

Name directors who are a joy to work with.

Marilou Diaz-Abaya tops my list because she's very thorough. I love her storytelling style. I also admire Laurice Guillen. My first movie was with her *via* "The Dolzura Cortez Story." Back then, I was new and nervous—she was precise in what she wanted from her actors, and she pats you on the back for a good take. I played the soldier husband of Vilma Santos. My exposure was short, but there was some recall.

Do you mind playing gay characters?

I don't. But, I don't want to accept every gay role that comes my way. Producers might think that it's the only role I can do! So far, I have only done two: "Sibak" and "Hanggang Dito na Lamang at Maraming Salamat." In both of them, my characters were in the closet.

Transition

Describe your transition from the legitimate stage to the movies.

The trouble with film is, you have to "stay" with your character for a longer duration. I find the technical aspect of filmmaking quite challenging.

BUENCAMINO. Topbills Tan's social satire.

How do you prepare for a role?

I have to like the character I'm playing. In "Ataul for Rent," I play a drug lord, so my past experiences with drugs helped me relate to the part. However, there's another reason why I accepted the project: It served as my reunion with my contemporaries from the stage—Irma Adlawan, Pen Medina, Joel Torre and Ronnie Lazaro. Our bonding on the set was truly special!

Katherine Heigl does even better on the big screen

By Nestor U. Torre

AT FIRST, "KNOCKED UP" appears to be just the latest in a long series of "gross-out" flicks for randy young viewers. It's about a really lucky "slacker" or lazy, jobless slob (Seth Rogen) who has a one-night stand with a really beautiful TV entertainment reporter (Katherine Heigl).

His slacker buddies go wild over this, cracking gross-out jokes all over the place, thus affirming our initial impression of the movie's limited intentions.

Instructive

Happily, as the film progresses, it turns out to be much less exploitative and superficial than we think. In fact, as it gets into the real swing of things, it develops into an instructive study of how opposites really do attract (even as they repel)—and, more importantly, learn a lot from each other on their bumpy way to an acceptably happy ending.

Being a nice guy despite his lack of income and initiative, Rogen's character helps Heigl through the early months of her unexpected pregnancy.

Little by little, however, their dissonances as a couple come to the fore more and more, until the grating sound they produced can no longer be tolerated!

Basically, and quite rightly, Heigl can't bear the thought that the child she's carrying in her womb will have this "useless" man for a father. So, she may ostensibly reach out to him, but she's subconsciously cringing, trying vainly to protect her child from its "unworthy" father.

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ.

HEIGL. Doesn't bank on her exceptional looks to sustain viewers' attention.

One of the movie's gifts to viewers is the eventual realization that the slacker-father isn't unworthy at all—that, despite his many flaws, he has it in him to be a good father, because the very fact that a baby is coming stirs up heretofore dormant feelings of responsible, protective fatherhood that he didn't know he was capable of having.

Difficulties

Thus does the film show how cleverly and fiercely nature protects its creatures, so that they can survive and thrive

KATHERINE/ F2

Israel waives visa requirement for tourists

By Edmund L. Sicam

AS AN ENTERTAINMENT WRITER, I'M USED to attending press luncheons, where actors talk about their latest project, how they worked hard on it, and why it is their best piece of work so far.

Last week, I went to a press dinner but, this time, instead of an actor, an airline executive, Nissim Ben Atar, El Al Israel Airlines' general manager, was the main guest. Looking very much like an actor, he too waxed enthusiastic about his "latest project."

History

Ben, as he would like to be called, explained how his airline and the state of Israel are closely related. "They were both founded in 1948. And if you examine Israel's history, you'll find that El Al figures prominently in it. When you board the plane, it's as if you were already on Israeli soil. We serve kosher food, and we don't fly on Shabbat, the seventh day of the week."

"Israel is a wonderful destination for Filipinos," he enthuses. "It is the Holy Land. Every place that you visit in Israel, you can feel the Holy Spirit. You can go to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. You can also visit Nazareth, the sea of Galilee, the Jordan river and Jerusalem."

Aside from religious sites, the airline executive says there are other attractions for tourists. Israel is a small country, so in a single day, one can visit Jerusalem, which is only half an hour away from Tel Aviv, and experience its culture and festivals.

You can also go bar-hopping and, later, dive into the Red Sea or, during winter, ski on Mt. Hermon. You can also go to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, where natural spas offer special health therapies. Then, there are archaeological sites like Masada and Qumran, and lush green oases. Filipinos, he adds, will feel at home in his country. "We love music, and we love to dance!"

Ben also told us something that many Filipinos may not be aware of. To encourage tourists to come and visit Israel, the government has waived the visa requirement starting March this year. So, to visit Israel, all you need is a valid passport.

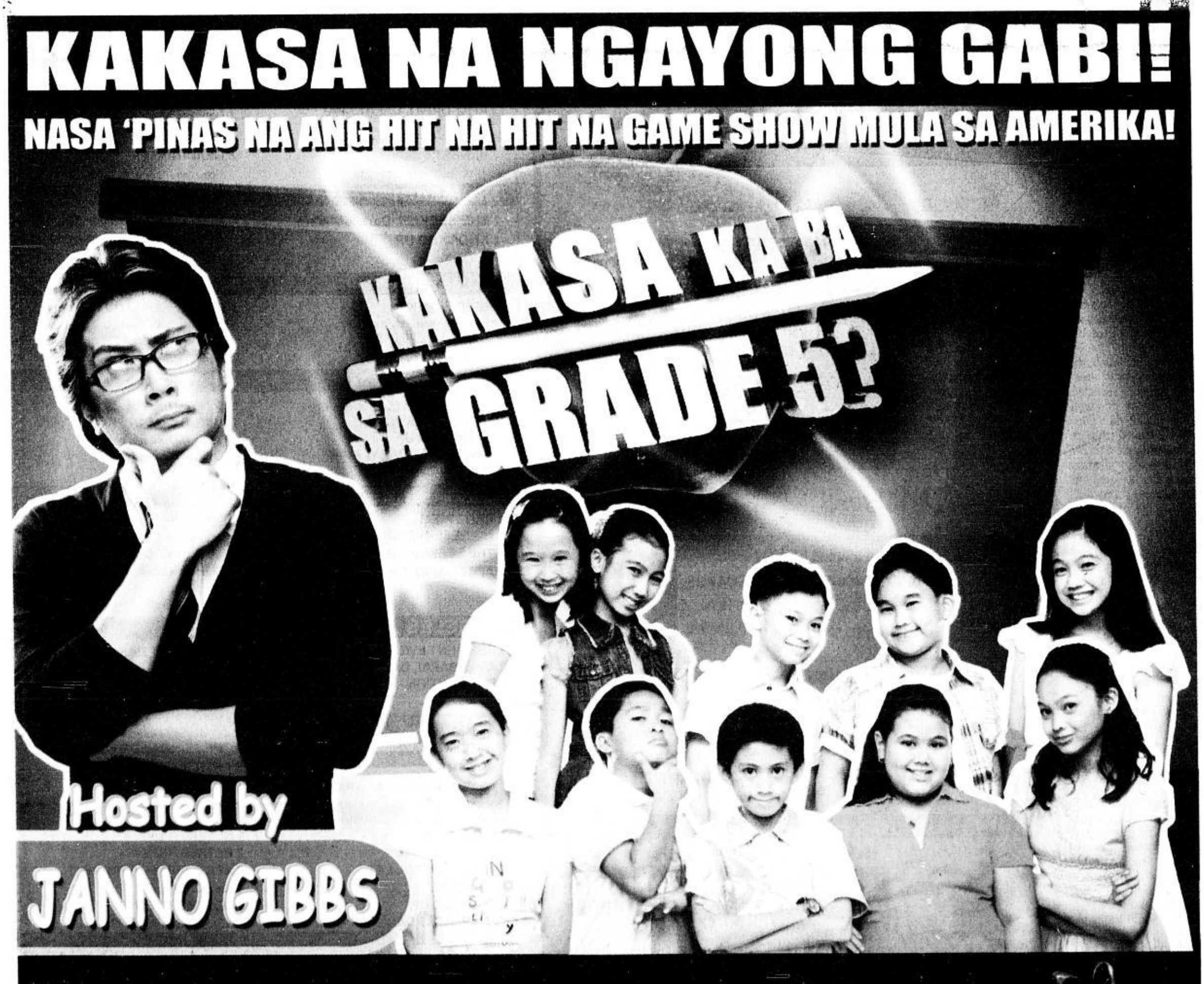
El Al is always looking for new ways to make travel an enjoyable experience for passengers. This year, the airline acquired two Boeing 777 aircrafts to complement its existing fleet. The 777 features 12 state-of-the-art seats for first-class passengers, 36 reclining business-class seats, and 232 economy seats. The airline flies to Tel Aviv five times a week from Hong Kong. Travel time is approximately 12 hours.

Peace and order

Many of us expressed concern about Israel's peace and order situation. Ben assured us that the incidents are isolated and occur in places not frequented by tourists. He added that there has been no report of a single tourist being harmed in his country.

He reiterates: "Our passengers' security is

ISRAEL/ F2



IN THIS ISSUE

■ Stars' right to privacy upheld /G3

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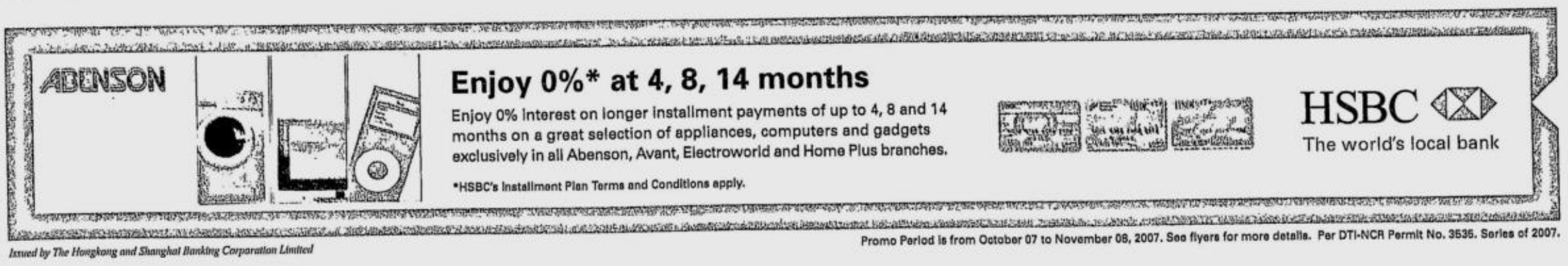

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Novel stellar tandems tickle viewers' fancy

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR YEARS NOW, WE'VE BEEN asked by readers to name the likeliest "successor" to Comedy King Dolphy's "crown." We've cited the really funny likes of Michael V., Ogie Alcasid and Willie Nepumuceno, but we've noted that, in terms of "bankable" track record, Dolphy's comedic heir most likely is Vic Sotto.

How interesting to hear, therefore, that Dolphy has finally decided to revive his film career with a big project in which he could costar with—Vic.

DOLPHY AND VIC. The result of their teamup should be more than the sum of its parts.

CARICATURES BY LA MISTADES AND ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Project

It's been many years since Dolphy has made a movie with a star comic as costar, so the project is one of Film Year 2008's most promising productions.

Since both Vic and Dolphy have done many solo starrers, it'll be an interesting challenge for their project's writer and director to figure out how to give each bankable comedy lead his due.

It isn't likely that Vic will settle for a "sidekick" role, like Dolphy's favorite TV-movie partner, Panchito, decades ago.

A likelier format could be the time-tested one that local film people have utilized for other big projects starring two important male leads, like Fernando Poe Jr. and Joseph Estrada in the '60s and '70s:

Dolphy and Vic could be initially made to play adversaries or rivals, the better for them to trade comic barbs and engage in comedic oneupmanship. Then, later in the film, circumstances would prompt them to settle their differences and combine forces to foil a common foe.

A third option would be for the Dolphy-Vic costarrer to ride the currently popular "fantasy" wave. Or, what about a musical-comedy format, since both stars sing and dance? Anything and everything is possible, as long as Dolphy and Vic are given enough room to deliver solid and memorably funny performances.

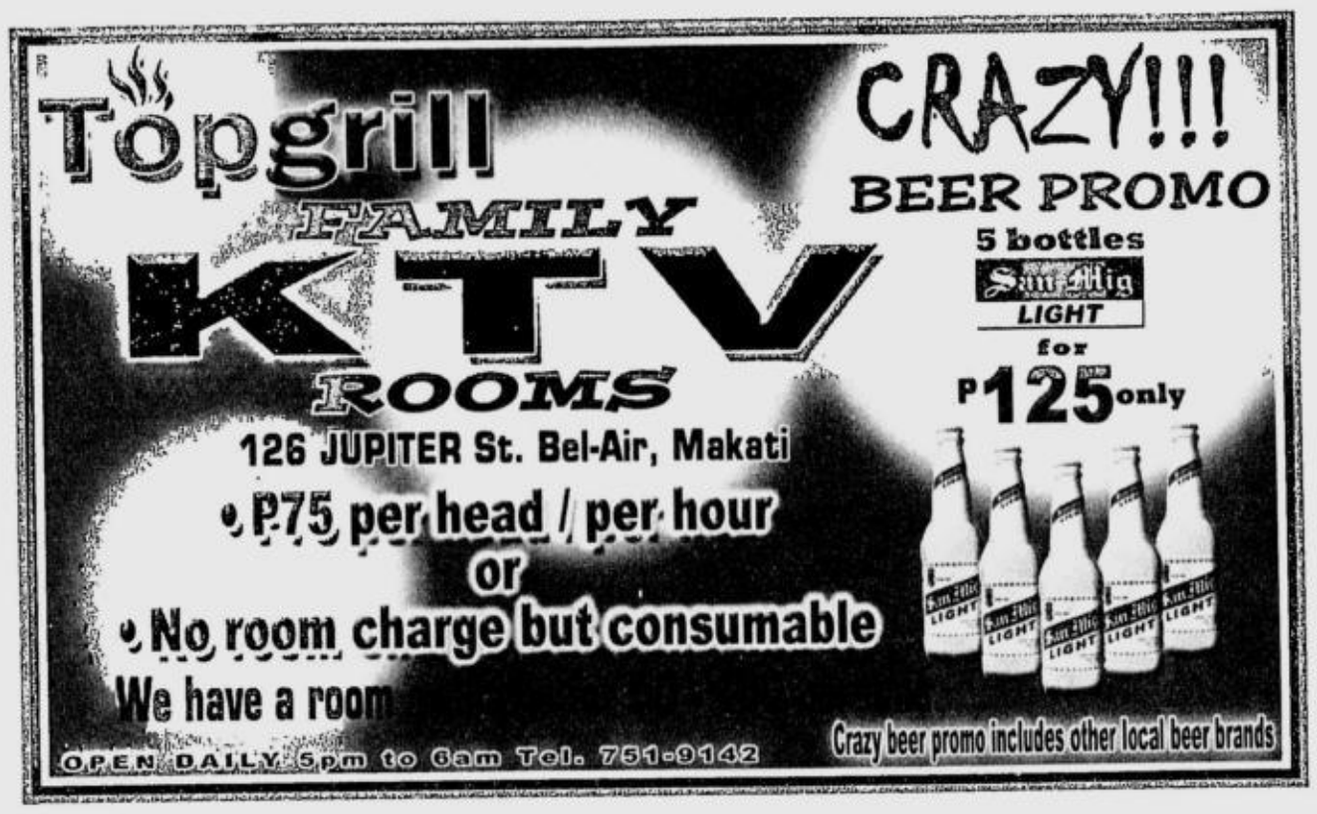
Promise

Of course, the best aspect of a Vic-Dolphy starrer is its promise of even more riotous scenes, as the two experienced comedians "bounce" off each other's well-honed talent. The comedic results, we fully trust, will be much more than the sum of its parts!

Even as we mull over these deliciously funny prospects, we also trust that our movie producers think up other novel projects that will make it possible for other interesting stellar tandems to costar on the big

FRESH/ G2

SANTOS AND AUNOR. The impact of a new costarrer could be even greater than their past collaborations.



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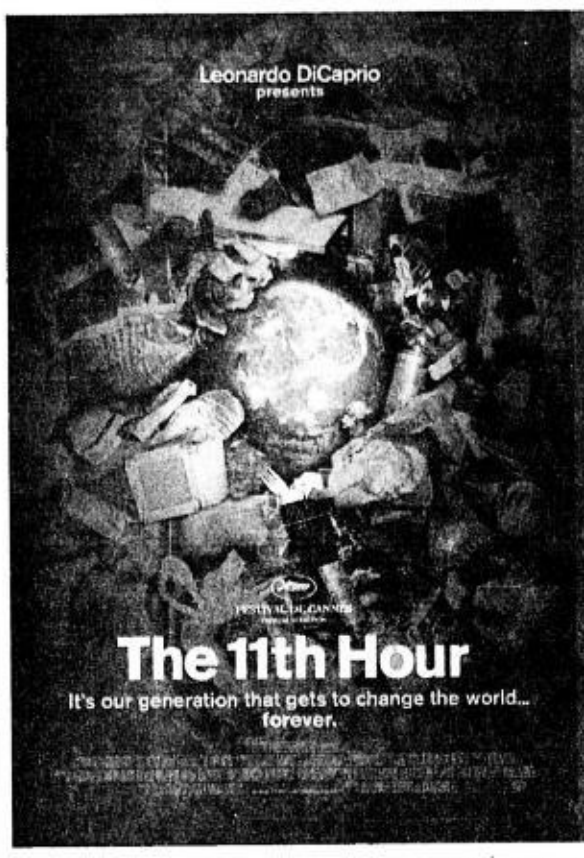

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2 STARDUST
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11 MR. WOODCOCK
12 FRIGHT FEST

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6 STARDUST
7 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
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10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11 FRIGHT FEST
12 CARTOON NETWORK

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1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 HIGHLANDER V/FRIGHT FEST
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 RENDITION
6 FRIGHT FEST
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 STARDUST
9 ROGUE ASSASSIN/CARTOON NETWORK
10 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3/ CARTOON NETWORK
3 UNREST
4 RENDITION
5 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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1 RENDITION
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 UNREST
4 FRIGHT FEST
5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
6 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
7 STARDUST
8 RESIDENT EVIL 3
9 RETRIBUTION/CARTOON NETWORK

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2 HIGHLANDER V
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

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3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
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6 RESERVED
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9 FRIGHT FEST
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12 UNREST

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3 MR. WOODCOCK
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2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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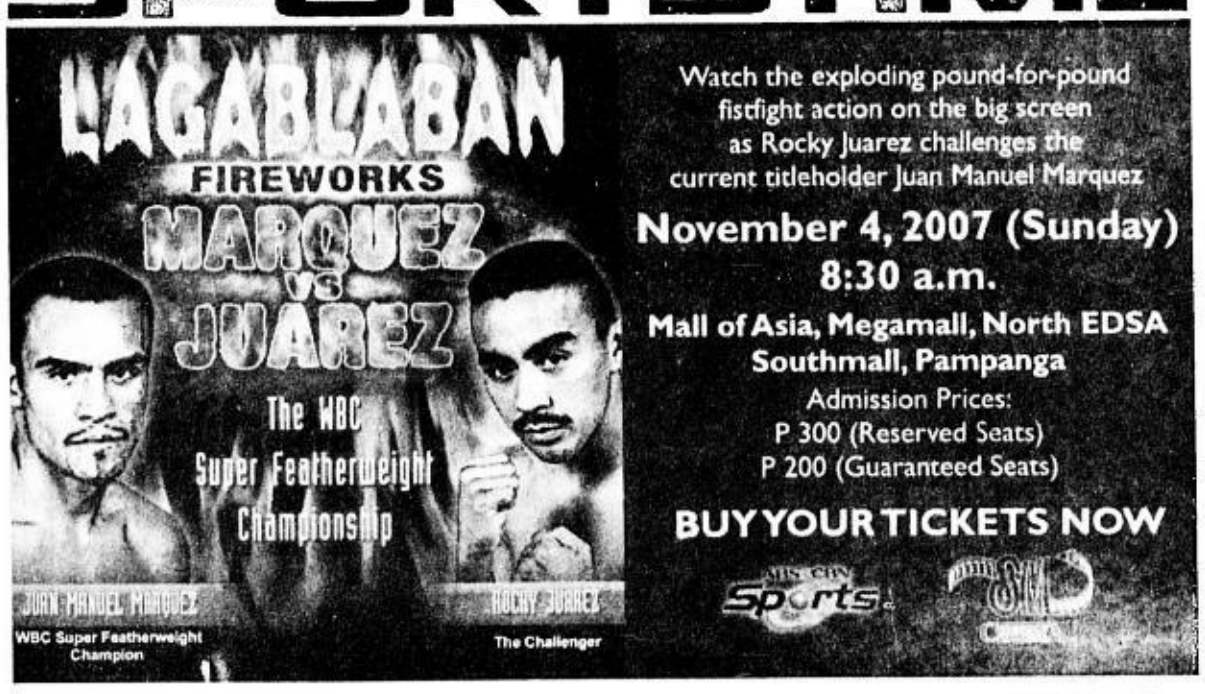

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8 RENDITION

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7 RESERVED
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
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8 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

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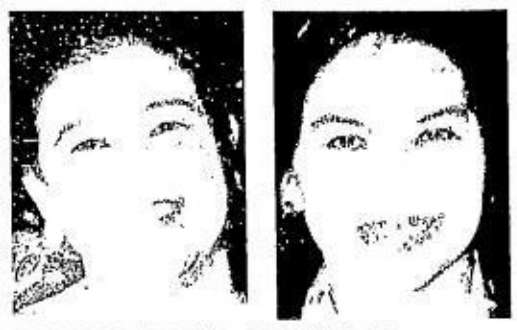

ROMUALDEZ AND ARANETA. Two of coveted award's latest recipients.

Outstanding women

PAY ATTENTION TO what works, and do more of it! The Towns awards' 10 women awardees this year understand this principle only too well. But, they also pay attention to what doesn't work.

They rose in their respective fields to become some of the country's most outstanding women. This year's honorees:

Dina S. Ocampo (education) is a pioneering researcher on dyslexia and reading difficulties.

Maria Corazon A. De Ungria (science) is the head of UP-Diliman's DNA Analysis Laboratory.

Eva Maria C. Cutiongco-de la Paz (medicine) is the assistant director of the Institute of Human Genetics.

Positive results

Alexandra "Sandy" R. Romualdez (print) is president and CEO of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. With her inputs, INQUIRER has redefined print journalism to mean social involvement and entrepreneurship that yield positive results for the community.

Alyssa M. Peleo-Alampay (science) is an associate professor of the National Institute of Geological Sciences at UP-Diliman. She gave up her US residency in her desire to make a difference in her own country. Her work involves research on global warming.

Hilly Ann Maria Roa-Quiaoit (environmental conservation) is a director of both the McKeough Marine Center and Xavier University's Kinaadman Research Center. She champions the conservation, rehabilitation and improvement of her region's coastal and marine life.

Maria A. Ressa (broadcast journalism) is senior vice president of ABS-CBN's News and Current Affairs department. She has a degree from Princeton University.

Workable plan

Catherine P. Vistro-Yu (education) is a mathematics professor at the Ateneo de Manila University. She has created a workable plan to address the deteriorating quality of mathematics teaching in the country.

Elizabeth H. Lee (business) is Universal Motors' executive vice president. She is the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines' first woman president—and its youngest.

Glecy Cruz-Araneta (arts and culture) is an artist, educator and civil servant who exemplifies artistic and academic excellence, selfless commitment and dedication to the arts.

***

E-mail us at mandynavasero@yahoo.com if you wish to join the Batanes Photo Safari on Dec. 27-30. Call 899-1767, or visit www.mandynavasero.com.

STREET SMART

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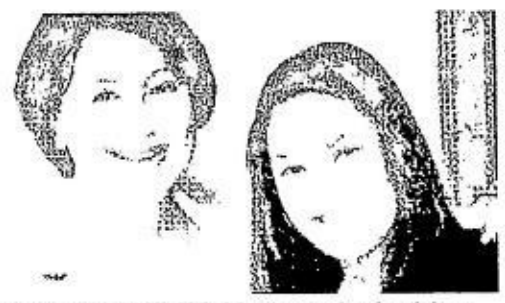

SHARON AND KC. Much-awaited pairing.

Novel...

From page G1

screen, to tickle viewers' fancy:

Now that Nora Aunor's legal woes in the States are over, she should be invited to come home and costar with Vilma Santos in a significant drama.

Nora and Vilma used to be screen rivals decades ago, but they appeared together in a few movies—to great effect. The impact of a new Vilma-Nora costarrer could be even greater, now that they've both matured.

Romantic item

Now that Ogie Alcasid and Regine Velasquez have admitted that they're a romantic item, their fans naturally want to see them costarring on the big screen in a really delightful romantic comedy.

Another movie tandem that's much-awaited isn't romantic at all—in fact, it's all in the family: Sharon Cuneta and her daughter, KC Concepcion, in their first film together!

And, what about a nonromantic-dramatic starrer for Aga Muhlach, for a change—this time, a hard-hitting drama pitting him against the local screen's other leading male thespian, Cesar Montano?

Alternative show for moms marks milestone

By Rito P. Asilo

IF YOU STILL HAVEN'T HEARD OF "Moms," Channel Q-11's hour-long talk show for mothers who want to hear earnest discussions on the different parental concerns they face on a daily basis, switch to GMA-7's sister company weekdays at 5:30 p.m.

It took us sometime to check out the show, so we were glad when we finally did, because we learned that the program, hosted by celebrity moms, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Manilyn Reynes-Jimenez and Sherilyn Reyes-Tan, transcends the usual self-indulgent gabfest that's more the norm than the exception on national TV these days.

Breath of fresh air

The amiable banter and candor of its hosts are a breath of fresh air. Topics range from women's health and advocacy to parental support for their children's interests.

"Moms" will turn 2 years old next month. When we caught up with the tight trio recently, they disclosed that they hardly repeat a topic, unless there is a demand for it. But, an episode can sometimes turn alternately hilarious, empowering and illuminating—especially when the topic discussed is...spousal infidelity!

(FROM LEFT) Hosts Sherilyn, Lani and Manilyn provide amiable banter and candor.

What makes the three hosts tick? Excerpts:

Do you get along well? You're polar opposites.

Sherilyn: We're very close. We have secrets *na kami lang ang nakakaalam!*

Do you discuss serious domestic topics?

S: *Meron ding* topics *na hindi masyadong maganda,* such as cheating husbands...

Lani: We also talk about cheating married *women*! We hear the different sides of a story. Sometimes, guests reveal more than they should, because they simply want to share and make people learn from their experiences.

Is this based on personal experience?

L: *Parang kailangan nang uminom ng tubig... (Laughter) Meron ding mga* guests *na babae—sina* Jaclyn Jose, Chanda Romero, Jackie Castillejo and Lou Bonnevie. But, Raymond Lauchengco, Ronnie Ricketts and Joko Diaz were also there.

Manilyn: Lou couldn't relate because her father didn't cheat. *Wala siyang nakita,* so she pointed out *na hindi lahat ng lalaki, ganoon.*

Role models

Among talk show hosts, who are your role models?

L: Oprah.

S: ...and Tyra Banks.

Your show will turn two years old next month, what else do you want to achieve?

S: I hope the show sustains or exceeds how we've managed to keep it relevant and entertaining. *Sana, tumanda kami sa* show *na ito,* because we've managed to reach out to a lot of people.

L: "Grandmoms" *na ang* title *ng* show! *(Laughter)*

M: Or "*Lolas*"! *(Laughter)*

Stars' right to privacy upheld

By Nestor U. Torre

FANS GENERALLY LOVE THE stars they choose to idolize, but some other people are more ambiguous about their feelings toward celebrities. They still get excited when stars appear, but they also feel that the luminaries "owe" them something.

What could that be? Well, their stardom, for one—after all, don't many celebrities intone that they owe their fans "everything"? Their pious mantra goes: "*Kung wala kayo, wala kami sa aming kinalalagyan ngayon.*"

Fans

Well, surprise, surprise, some fans end up believing them, and expecting "something" in return—namely, the stars' privacy. That's right, some fans and members of the entertainment media believe that, since stars make a great living out of entertaining the viewing and listening public, they have to "go public" even when it comes to their private lives.

That sounds like an onerous requirement—until we hear some big stars declaring that they do feel that they have an "obligation" to their fans to allow them to invade their privacy.

Obliging idols

Stars play along in this regard, because it makes fans feel much closer to their obliging idols. Stars believe that, if their fans relate to them as friends and "family," they'll be much more loyal and supportive—and that's all to the good for the celebrities' careers.

Trouble is, some fans and show biz reporters don't know when or where to stop. When stars say they owe them "everything," they believe them implicitly, and end up feeling they "own" the stars—lock, stock and barrel.

So when some luminaries balk at having to share *everything* about their private lives, disappointed fans and media people hiss, "Hey, if you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen!"

STARS/ G6

'Butterfly on a Wheel' doesn't fly high

By Noelani Torre

NO, THE MOVIE, "BUTTERFLY ON A Wheel," doesn't have anything to do with the Alexander Pope poem from which it's quoted. Neither does it bear any relation to William Rees-Mogg's 1967 editorial in "The Times"—"Who breaks a butterfly on a wheel?"—which famously defended the Rolling Stones' Keith Richards and Mick Jagger, who had been charged with drug possession.

If it had, perhaps "Butterfly on a Wheel" would have been a more interesting movie. As it is, it's just another garden-variety psychological thriller. There are no drugs or rock 'n' roll in this film, and whatever sexy bits there are, they're just peripheral.

Suburban family

Starring Pierce Brosnan, Gerard Butler and Maria Bello, the film tells the tale of an affluent suburban family living apparently perfect lives—or so it seems. Neil and Abby Randall, played by Butler and Bello, are devoted to each other and to their daughter, Sophie.

Neil's advertising career is flourishing, and everything's just hunky-dory. Then, one day, a sociopath (Brosnan) kidnaps their daughter, forces them to do whatever he wants, and basically ruins their lives. Or, so it seems.

As you would expect in any psychological or suspense thriller, there are many "or so it seems" moments in this movie. Seemingly perfect lives are exactly that—smooth and unruffled on the surface, but seething with all sorts of dark things underneath: That the Randalls are not as perfect as they appear is not surprising, nor are most of the other revelations in this decent, but curiously unsatisfying movie.

The leads—Brosnan, Butler and Bello—acquit themselves well. Brosnan is more than believable as a psycho with mysterious motives. Butler, sans beard (and with his clothes on), gives a strong performance as an angry, frustrated and terrified father and husband. For her part, Bello makes her character subtle and well-shaded.

Directed by Mike Barker, the production tries not to be predictable. To a certain extent, it succeeds. However, anyone who's seen movies featuring hostage-taking sociopaths and kidnapped innocents will be familiar with many of the film's plot developments.

Twists

The twists aren't quite twisted enough, and the motivations, when they are revealed, don't quite justify everything that happened before. Hence, there's no release from tension, and not enough catharsis.

The line from Pope, from which this movie takes its title, is "Who breaks a butterfly upon a wheel?" Meaning, why would anyone put so much effort into getting something inconsequential done, when it could be achieved through easier means? This is a question that the movie doesn't resolve—which could be why they changed the film's North American title to "Shattered."

Transcending chaos

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R. Valencia and S. Bismark

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The film is about a young secret agent (Tang Wei) who was assigned to seduce a high-ranking intelligence official (Tony Leung) of the puppet government in WWII Shanghai. As she plunged deeper into the dangerous game of lust, betrayal and espionage, she slowly realized that her relationship with her prey had evolved into something she did not expect.
"A sumptuous, masterful piece of cinema... The torrid, full nudity scenes... set the screen ablaze."
Ruben Nepales, Philippine Daily Inquirer
"a tragic melodrama... This time love is a performance, a trap... an illusion."
Dennis Lim, New York Times
SPECIAL SCREENINGS TODAY
ONLY AT SELECTED THEATERS

Agnes de Guzman dramatizes plight of Filipino nurses

DE GUZMAN. Lives the lives of her characters in her head.

By Ronald G. Mangubat

SCRIPTWRITER AGNES DE Guzman examines the plight of Filipino nurses in her latest screenplay, "Nars," the new digital film directed by Adolf Alix Jr.

"Filipino nurses worldwide are growing in number, but they're prone to heavier scrutiny," the writer declares. "I never gave much thought about their plight before this, but after my intensive research, I have learned to respect them more and understand them better."

Choices

Showing in commercial theaters on Nov. 28, "Nars" interweaves different stories that illustrate why many *Pinoys* want to pursue the nursing profession.

Starring Jennylyn Mercado, Jodie Santamaria, Agot Isidro, Coco Martin and Jon Avila, the movie follows one year in the lives of five graduating nursing students and the choices they make to realize their dreams.

"Obviously, a major reason is economics, but it's more than that," Agnes notes. "Their motives also tell us something about what's happening to our society."

De Guzman, who's been writing scripts for television and has penned a number of comedy-driven screenplays for more than a decade, discloses that writing the script of "Nars" posed a challenge to her because of the technical jargon that she had to learn during the research phase.

"I don't want nurses to say that the film's dialogue or scenes are inaccurate," she tells us. "At the same time, I don't want to alienate ordinary viewers by sounding technical. More than anything, this is a story about relationships!"

While it took Agnes only three days to finish writing the screenplay of "Nars," the research phase of the movie took weeks because of the interviews she had to conduct. "But, I was lucky because Carl Balita, who's producing the film, also happens to be a nurse. In fact, he owns the largest review center in the country! Direk Adolf also added precious insights into the subject matter."

Contentious issue

One contentious issue which the producers, director and writer had to settle prior to principal photography involved the debate on whether to tackle the nursing board exam scandal, which rocked the whole nursing community recently. Agnes discloses: "We deliberated on the issue for hours, but we finally decided to concentrate more on the individual struggles of the characters."

The writing phase, De Guzman's admits, is the most enjoyable part of her whole process, because it transports her into an entirely different world where she can live the lives of the characters in her head.

"I love it!," she beams. "In 'Nars,' for instance, I found out that Filipino nurses lead very colorful lives! *Masaya pala ang maging* nurse!"

Mother Teresa lives on

By Lilia Borlongan-Alvarez

MOTHER TERESA. Led a life of intense contemplative prayer.

EWTN'S RECENT keynote presentation, "Remembrances of Mother Teresa of Calcutta," was an eye-opener to viewers and followers of the beloved late nun.

It featured three of Mother Teresa's closest companions and her lone surviving relative, who shared their personal experiences with the woman the world called a "living saint."

Mother Teresa's closest friends related how they were warmly met by Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, with whom they sought an audience. After exchanging pleasantries, Castro told Mother Teresa, "Cuba had no poor." To which the diminutive nun replied: "But you have the elderly and the handicapped, so we can help you with that."

Miraculous medals

As one of her friends held miraculous medals in one hand and business cards in the other, Mother Teresa whispered to her to save the medals for later and give Castro the cards first!

Guests on the show talked about how Mother Teresa led a life of intense contemplative

MOTHER/ G5

Pete Roa...

From page G6

7 p.m., "Single White Female 2."

'Mischief Madness'

Want to have a howling good time this Halloween? Nickelodeon invites you to the Music Hall of the SM Mall of Asia on Oct. 31 for its "freaky fun" event, "Mischief Madness," from 3 to 9 p.m. But first, join the mall-wide "Nick of Treats" trick or treating from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 5-7 p.m.

Just look for the Halloween-inspired splats on participating shops. Wear your costume, bring your Halloween pails with special tags purchased from SM Department Store, and you're in for special treats.

For tickets to "Mischief Madness," purchase a minimum of P1,000 worth of goodies from Toy Kingdom and Toy Express stores.

NADAL. Performed for Sun Cellular in Cagayan de Oro.

Hottest bands in 'Sun Invasion'

Sun Cellular recently staged a series of events featuring the hottest bands to celebrate the network's increased capacity and expanded coverage all over the country. The "Sun Invasion" performance tour featured Session Road in Tagaytay, Mojofly in Olongapo, Kitchie Nadal in Cagayan de Oro, Crossover and Donita Nose in Iloilo, Brownman Revival in Bacolod, and Soap Dish in General Santos. The tour boosted Sun's services, like the IDD Top 10 and the one-day P25 2417 Call and Text Unlimited.

On Jack TV

Wednesdays at 7: 30 p.m., Season 4 of "Family Guy." At 8 p.m., "The Simpsons." Fridays at 7:30 p.m., "American Dad." At 7 p.m., "King of the Hill." Saturdays at 6 p.m., "Batman 3." Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m., "The Office." And Fridays at 10 p.m., "The Real Gilligan's Island."

'Wilderness' on video

Michael Bassett's horror film, "Wilderness," is out on video. It's about violent prisoners trapped on an island with a mysterious hunter and a pack of killer dogs.

'Power to Unite with Elvira'

This week's episode of "Power to Unite with Elvira," which airs on Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. on NBN-4, will feature Archbishop Diosdado A. Talamayan of Tuguegarao and songstress Ivy Violan (who will render the opening number, "Hanggang") as special guests.

ELVIRA Go hosts "Power to Unite" show on NBN-4 every Tuesday.

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You am I 4:30 PM
Karakter 6:30 PM
Facing Windows 9:00 PM
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Taming of the Shrew 2:30 PM
Carol's Journey 5:00 PM
Jalla!Jalla! 7:15 PM
Meeting the Enemy 9:15 PM
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Dead Man's Hand 2:00 PM
Fanny & Alexander 4:00 PM
The Kiss 7:30 PM
Closely Watched Trains 9:40 PM
October 29 (Monday)
Jalla!Jalla! 12:00 PM
The Leopard 2:15 PM
Facing Windows 5:45 PM
Just Sex & Nothing Else 8:00 PM
Lives of Others 10:00
October 30 (Tuesday)
Leap 12:00 PM
La Mome 2:00 PM
The Umbrellas of Cherbourg 4:50 PM
Kolya 6:50 PM
FC Venus 9:15 PM
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OPENS OCTOBER 31
ROGUE

Diverse influences energize Kastigo band's music

By Marlet D. Salazar

LIKE OTHER PROMISING bands, the new guys on the music block just want to make good music. And by "good," they mean good, old rock 'n' roll. Composed of four students from De La Salle University and the College of St. Benilde, Kastigo recently launched its debut album, "Our Daily Riot."

11-track lineup

Vocalist Carlo Ordoñez wrote most of the songs in the 11-track lineup. When he sings in Tagalog, Ordoñez sounds like Jett Pangan, and he sounds like Basti Artadi when he sings in English.

Other band members, who are barely in their 20s, include guitarist Josh Montecillo, drummer Mark Santiago, and lone female member, bassist Sans Fojas. Their music strikes a balance between mainstream pop and art.

"We don't want to isolate ourselves from music that our audience wants to listen to, but we also don't want to short-change them by delivering mediocre music," Montecillo and Fojas explained. "'Our Daily Riot' is a reflection of our diverse musical influences, which include old-school, slow, and *Pinoy* rock, with touches of jazz and bossa nova."

Doors

As Kastigo hopped from one gig to another, doors suddenly opened for the group after local rock icon, Wolf Gemora, "discovered" them while playing at Purple Haze in Quezon City.

Gemora's approval encouraged Kastigo to seriously collate their songs and come up with an album.

The band was formed in 2005. The goodlooking Fojas, who steals moments from Ordoñez with her stage presence, plays the bass. Santiago used to play bass, but he soon realized that he's more comfortable behind the drums.

The members of Kastigo promise to finish their studies regardless of where their music will take them. Fojas, Montecillo and Santiago still have two terms to go, while Ordoñez has two years more before he completes his course.

Mother Teresa lives on

From page G4

prayer, but she was also a "bundle of energy." Even in her later years, they said she would scrub the floors of the many houses of charity that she built in Asia and the United States.

Her personal physician related how the nun, even after falling seriously ill, was determined to accompany her successor from Calcutta to Rome so that the latter could meet Pope John Paul II.

Rosary

Her physician also recalled instances when she was to say the rosary with the nun while she was being put on a ventilator. She shared: "Because Mother would pray the rosary for only 20 minutes, I tried to extend it to 30 minutes, so she could stay longer for her therapy and medication!"

Guests also remembered instances when the nun would surprise them with profound one-liners when things didn't go as planned. "If Jesus doesn't want it, we don't want it—we don't want to go faster than Jesus!," quoted another friend, whose role was to document her life on film.

To the question if the guests ever witnessed the "darkness" Mother Teresa was talking about in her writings, they said they never saw any such moment—because it was already extraordinary to be in her presence!

Agi Bojaxhiu, Mother Teresa's niece—and lone surviving relative—related how the nun buried the latter's mother and sister in communist-ruled Albania (her home country, where public display of religious worship was forbidden), side by side with crosses on each grave. Those were Albania's first crosses in cemeteries.

Sense of humor

It was an evening of engaging storytelling, punctuated with hearty laughs and thunderous applause from a live audience. It was revelatory to many because it gave viewers a glimpse into Mother Teresa's sense of humor and humanity. Many of them were caught weeping.

Campbell, the program's gracious host, was the perfect choice to moderate the conference. She hosts EWTN's "Faith and Culture," which airs Wednesdays at 11 p.m.

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AT THE CINEMAS

THX

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GLORIETTA 1	1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	2 RENDITION	3 THE UNREST	4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
GLORIETTA 4	1 STARDUST	2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	3 THX BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 MR. WOODCOCK	5 PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER	6 RENDITION	7 KNOCKED UP
GREENBELT 1	1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	2 RENDITION		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX RENDITION GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 KNOCKED UP GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS	5 STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX RENDITION	2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL		
	3 STARDUST	4 THE 11TH HOUR	5 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DECEMBER BOYS	2 SHOOT 'EM UP	3 EVENING	4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
MARKET! MARKET!	1 RENDITION	2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT		
	3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	5 THE UNREST	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	3 THE UNREST GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 STARDUST	6 KNOCKED UP	7 THX RENDITION GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

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Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	Halloween Treat: NWA's Science Fiction Fantasy Convention October 27; Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Trick or Treat at Greenbelt 3 Park October 25 to 28 and 31
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Sesame Street Party October 27; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Kiddo Halloween Event October 27; Activity Center and On Stage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	FUBU Fashion Show and Badminton Championship October 27; Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Sesame Street Party October 28; Activity Center

Experience the chilling world of terror that is Ayala Malls Cinemas
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VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED
An American village is visited by some unknown life form which leaves the women of the village pregnant. Nine months later, the babies are born and they all look normal, but it doesn't take the parents long to realize that the kids are not human or humane.
Screening Schedules
12:30pm, 5:30pm, 10:30pm
(MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13)
THE THING
In the winter of 1982 a twelve-man research team at a remote Antartic research station discovers an alien buried in the snow for over 100000 years. Once unfrozen the form-changing alien wreaks havoc creates terror and becomes one of them.
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See posters and flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-470. Series of 2007.
Next Attraction:
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glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

Redford, Cruise encourage social participation of youth

REDFORD AND CRUISE. Topbill political drama, "Lions for Lambs."

ROME—ROBERT Redford hopes his new film about US military action in Afghanistan will encourage the American youth to "take command of their voice."

"Are they going to become politically active, or will they move away from it because they're disgusted or disillusioned?," Redford asked reporters in Rome.

The movie, "Lions for Lambs," is being shown out of competition at the city's film festival.

Soldiers

"Lions for Lambs" follows six individuals over the course of an hour: Two US soldiers attack a mountain ridge in Afghanistan; a hardbitten journalist, played by Meryl Streep, discusses the US government policy with a prominent American senator, played by Tom Cruise. Elsewhere, an idealistic professor, played by Robert Redford, meets with a bright but cynical student.

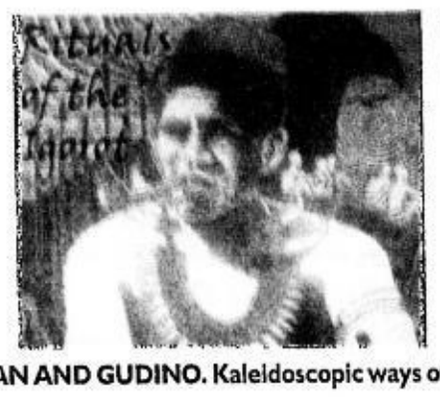
In the United States, "we have lost lives and sacred freedoms; we've lost financial stability, as well as our position of respect on the world stage," Redford added.

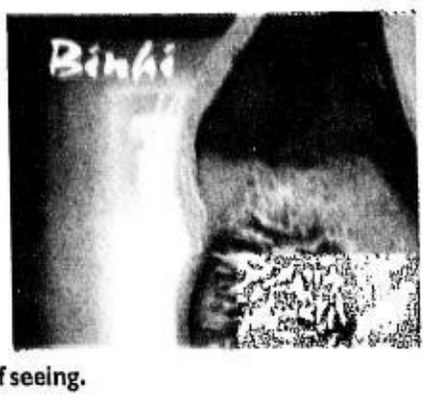
Situations

"I can only speak for my own countrys—but I presume the situations are similar. But, the future belongs to young people—they have to take command of their voice!"

The film also explores the issue of press freedom versus political power, as Streep's character engages in edgy, intellectual parrying with Cruise's senator.

Cruise told reporters that film screenings at US colleges "ignited a lot of dialogue, which is what this kind of film should do!" *Reuters*





WORKS BY DAQUIOAG, MANG-OSAN AND GUDINO. Kaleidoscopic ways of seeing.

Prismatic views of art at CCP

By Nestor U. Torre

EVERY MONTH, THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines' galleries and corridors are graced by a variety of art exhibits that vivify very different ways of seeing. All too often, however, we profess to be too busy to give those exhibits the time, attention and appreciation they deserve—and we're the poorer for it.

Last week, however, we arrived at the CCP more than an hour early for a meeting, and decided to do a quick survey of the exhibits there. We're glad we did, because we had ourselves a really good time appreciating the original visions of the different artists involved!

OLMEDO exhibit showcases key examples of his artistic impulses.

Tour

To start off our impromptu visual tour in a big way, we headed for the CCP's main gallery and its retroactive exhibition of the unique artworks of the late Onib Olmedo.

We've been Onib's fan for decades, so we were thrilled to see key examples of his different artistic impulses showcased in one major exhibition.

Some people find his portraits "distorted," but we've always loved them for their originality and arresting insights into human nature.

At the CCP exhibit, we found ourselves gravitating toward two large black-and-white canvases, "Concert at the Alley" and "The Apartment," which were cited in the prestigious International Exposition de Paintres in France.

In our view, these two masterworks showcase Onib's talent at its finest and grandest, and rank among the best produced by any modern-day Filipino artist.

In a smaller gallery, a radically different exhibit, "Invincible," has been mounted by Thomas Daquioag. His particular artistic focus is a surprising and revealing juxtaposition of two otherwise unrelated elements—the hard-edged reality of the masses, and the fantasticating world inhabited by superheroes!

Yet another radical visual shift is evident along a third floor corridor, which features an exhibit of "solar" paintings by Jordan Mang-Osan. The images are burned rather than painted, and vivify the rituals and legends that govern life in the Mountain Province.

Along another gallery, Lynrd Arwyn Paras' artworks compel attention and interest with their personal, subjective and ironic rendition of "A Day When Everything Is Beautiful!"

And, at the Little Theater lobby, Rita Badilla-Gudino's first solo show, "Binhi," features natural forms and fruit shapes in clay "celebrating women and the life-giving process."

Possibilities

Each of these exhibits compel our interest and attention. Seen together, they turn out to be more than the sum of their parts, because they provide a veritable kaleidoscope view of the wide range of possibilities of the artistic impulse.

It is a testament to the CCP's open-minded attitude when it comes to the visual arts that these diverse artistic impulses are on view on the same month. Why don't you make time to view these exhibits soon—they're free in more senses than one!

Stars' right to privacy upheld

From page G3

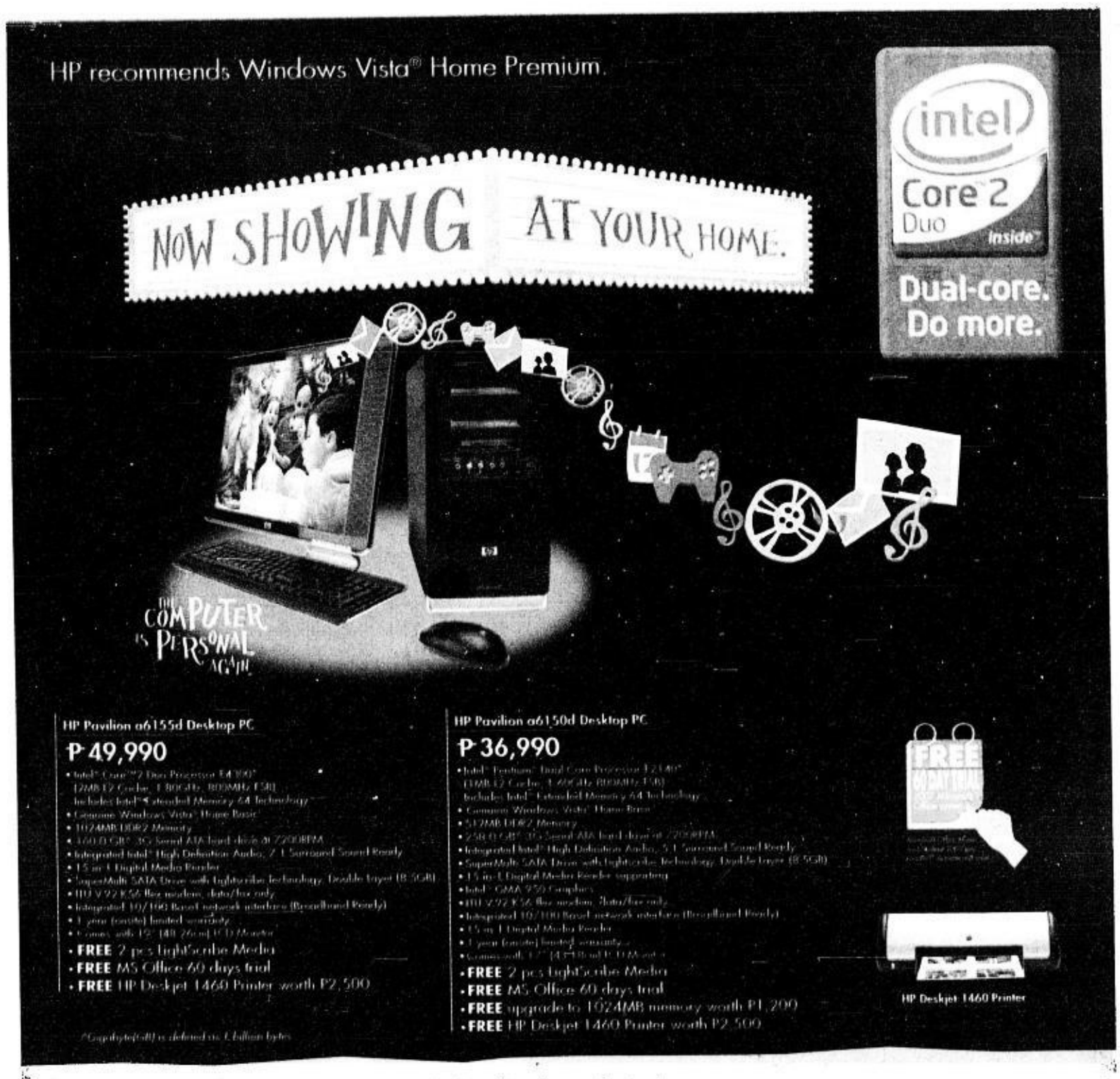
—What kitchen? The last time we checked, stars were entertainers, not cooks. But, you get the picture: Some fans believe that stars practically have a contractual obligation to give up their privacy—as their "pound of flesh" payment for all of the juicy perks that go with stardom.

To make things worse, some stars exploit their own private lives to keep their careers alive! When they're in a slump, they share personal scandals, and sometimes even concoct them, so that they can get the publicity they need to boost their flagging fortunes.

The way out of this sordid invasive mess? Stars have to make it in the biz on the basis of talent, looks and charisma, *not* their private lives. The important thing is to set these parameters at the very start of a career, so that fans and the media know what the limits are.

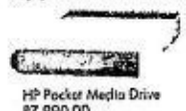
Some stars have become popular without sacrificing their privacy on the altar of fame and fortune, and the higher level they've established does the entertainment industry proud.

In the final analysis, entertainers should believe the dictum, "The only thing I owe the viewing public is a good performance." That may sound coldly impersonal, but it really *is* the most intelligent and self-respecting way to go.



Soon, your entire family will be idolising the multitalented performer that is the HP Pavilion a6155d Desktop PC with a 19" wide LCD monitor powered by the Intel® Core™2 Duo Processor. Supported by Windows Vista® Home Premium, its charismatic looks are matched by infinite crowd-pleasing capabilities. Relive happy memories while organising your photos into albums and DVD slideshows with Windows Photo Gallery. And create new ones when you edit and direct home movies with Windows Movie Maker. Then share your masterpieces via personalised Lightscribe DVDs, Windows Sync Centre or even the Pocket Media Drive, an optional storage device that docks neatly into its own drive bay, or connects to any other PC via USB. Indeed, if there's any entertainer with the appeal to bring your family home all year round, it's the HP Pavilion a6155d Desktop PC. **Promo extended until October 31, 2007 approved by DTI-NCR.**

Enjoy with this HP accessory.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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3537, Series of 2007.

Pete Roa foundation takes off

THE PETE ROA INTEGRATED Media Endeavors (Prime), a foundation dedicated to implement Roa's vision and unfulfilled missions, has been formed. It's initial activities will coincide with his 68th birthday on Jan. 16 next year.

MONTAGE

Members of the Board, headed by Roa's widow, Boots Anson-Roa, are Dr. Nong Osorio, Bibsy Carballo, Joe Mari Chan, Atty. Raffy Evangelista, Marichu Maceda, Fred de la Rosa, Ed Roa and Nestor Torre.

The foundation is involved in helping stroke victims, educating broadcasters and paying tribute to St. Padre Pio, to whom Roa was devoted, by way of a play on his life. It will premiere at the Padre Pio Center in Libis in January.

"LUST, CAUTION." Controversial Ang Lee film won Venice fest's Golden Lion award.

Uncut 'Lust, Caution' holds preview

Ang Lee's controversial erotic thriller, "Lust, Caution," is holding special previews in selected cinemas in its R-18 uncut version. The espionage thriller, which won the Golden Lion award at the Venice Film Festival, is about a young woman who joins a political murder plot—and becomes emotionally involved with her enemy.

'Halloween'

From horror master Rob Zombie comes "Halloween," an entirely new take on the terrifying "chiller cinema" legacy that began in 1978. Audiences should brace themselves as Zombie turns back time to uncover the making of a pathologically disturbed and cursed child named Michael Myers.

"Halloween" centers on three stages of Myers' life: His troubled childhood, his years under the watchful eye of Dr. Loomis at the Sanitarium, and the fateful day following his escape. The film stars Malcolm McDowell, Scout Taylor-Compton, Brad Dourif, Tyler Mane and newcomer Daeg Faerch.

Toti and Anna at Merks

International artists Toti Fuentes and Anna Fegi perform tonight and on Nov. 8, 10 and 15 at Merks Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3, and at the Mandarin's Captain's Bar on Nov. 20. Both Nov. 10 and 20 are Cyber Press Nights presented by My World by Next Mobile. Special guests on both nights is Rachel Anne Wolfe. Call 721-0801 or 737-4720.

Sherwin Sozon, tenor

SOZON. Recital at Francisco Santiago Hall tomorrow.

Tomorrow at 3:30 p.m., outstanding tenor Sherwin Sozon will be presented by Mamerto Villaba in a voice recital at the Francisco Santiago Hall, BDO South Tower, H.V. de la Costa st., Makati. Accomanist is Alber Jude Areopagita.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 5 p.m., "North Country." Tomorrow at 9 p.m., "The Producers." Oct. 29 at 7 p.m., "Glory." Oct. 30 at 5 p.m., "The China Syndrome." Oct. 31 at 9 p.m., "Flashback." Nov. 1 at 11 a.m., "Syriana." Nov. 2 at 7 p.m., "Broken Flowers."

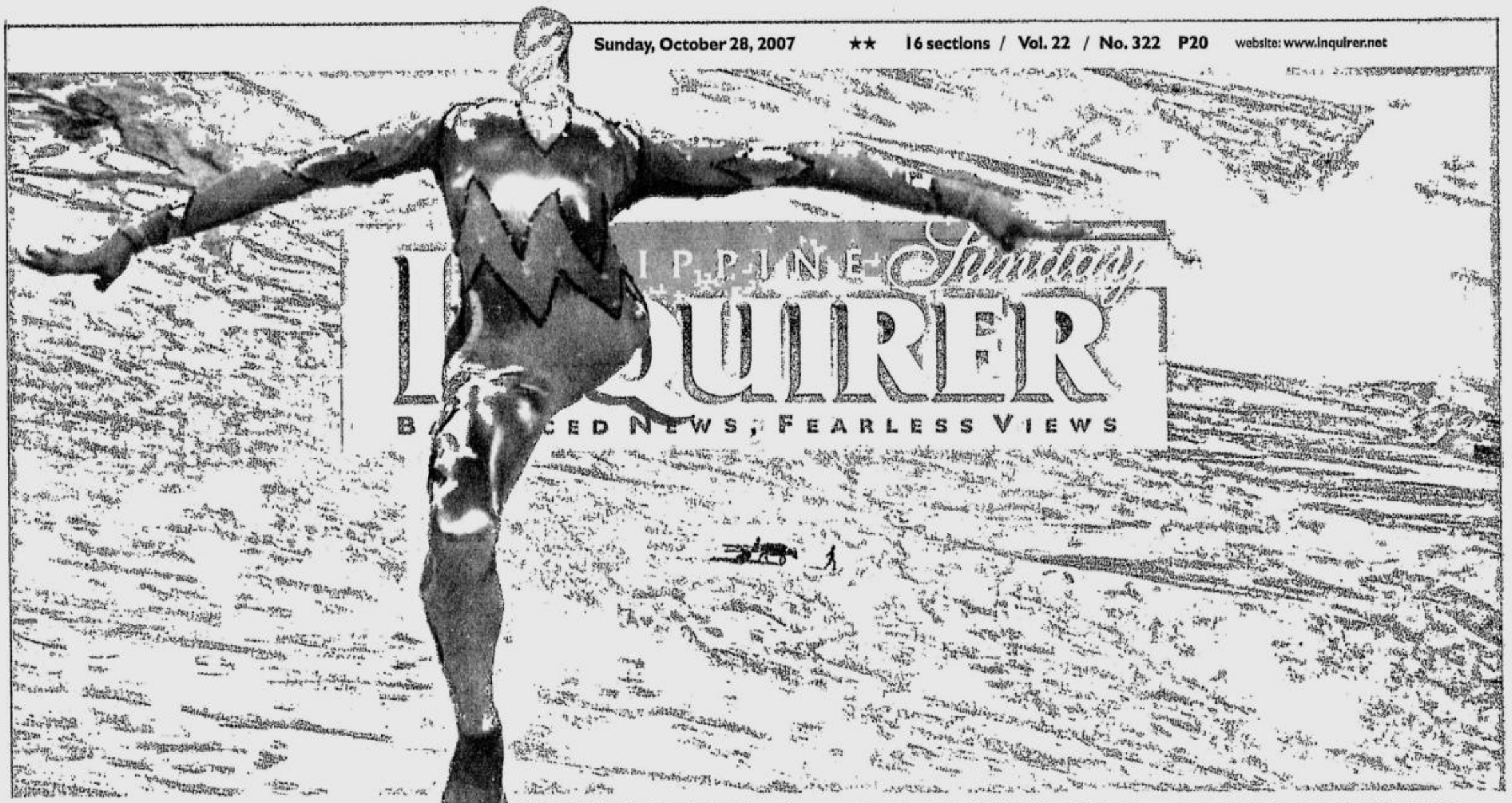
On Cinemax today at 3 p.m., "To Be the Best." Tomorrow at 1 p.m., "Alfie." Oct. 29 at 7 a.m., "Bonnie and Clyde." Oct. 30 at 3 p.m., "Memphis Belle." Oct. 31 at 1 p.m., "East of Eden." Nov. 1 at 5 p.m., "Trading Places." Nov. 2 at

PETE/ G4

HORROR flick, "Halloween," gets a reworking from Rob Zombie.

Sunday, October 28, 2007 ★★ 16 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 322 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE Sunday
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



"FOOTHEAD," taken by Lyn Rillon of a gymnast in action in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, was adjudged not only the "Photo of the Year" but also the "Best Sports Photo." It is superimposed on "Laharlandia," by Edwin Bacasmas, which won "Best Ecology Shot."

Antipoverty job for Erap?

Palace willing to 'work together' with Estrada

By Michael Lim Ubac

WILL A GOVERNMENT POST be open to Citizen Erap?

A day after former President Joseph Estrada won executive clemency and reclaimed his freedom, Secretary Cerge Remonde yesterday said the government and the ousted leader could "work together" to fight poverty in the last three years of President Macapagal-Arroyo's term.

"Why not?" said Remonde, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, when asked if Estrada could play a role in Ms Arroyo's efforts to defeat poverty.

Lest he be misunderstood, Remonde quickly emphasized that "it's not for me to offer a government post to the former President. (I'm) not in a position to offer him a post."

Estrada, a convicted plunderer who regained his freedom the other day after Ms Arroyo pardoned him, was visiting his ailing mother in the hospital and could not be reached for comment. But his wife, former Sen. Luisa "Loi" Estrada, said in Filipino: "We know nothing about that."

"For me, *di dapat mabigyan ng posisyon si Presidente* Erap. *Di nya dapat tanggapin. Masyadong* demotion *na yun. Kahit anong posisyon. Magtrabaho na lang siya ng sa kanya* (President Erap should not have a position in government. He should not take it. That's too much of a demotion for him. He should just work on his own)," Loi told the INQUIRER.

Estrada himself said on the day he

ANTIPOVERTY/ A19

ON HIS first night home after being pardoned, Joseph Estrada is welcomed by wife Loi (behind him) and assorted kith and kin, including his large brood that includes children and grandchildren (we lose track of who's who). JOAN BONDOC

Inquirer sweeps photo tilt

By Ernie U. Sarmiento,
Chief Photographer

TWO PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER photographers dominated the Press Photographers of the Philippines—National Press Club 2007 First Gentleman Photojournalism Contest by winning the "Photojournalist of the Year" and the "Photo of the Year" awards during ceremonies held Thursday at the Bulwagang Plaridel of the NPC in Manila.

They also won in six of the eight categories.

Edwin Bacasmas, who had just won this year's Catholic Mass Media Awards for Best News Photograph, was voted "Photojournalist of the Year" after winning in five categories.

Bacasmas' photo titled "Pssst, Quiet Ka Lang" taken on Sept. 26, 2007, won in the Best News Photo category. It

INQUIRER/ A5

Erap's first night at No. 1 Polk Street

By Volt Contreras
and Kristine L. Alave

AFTER ALL THE CHEERS (AND JEERS), it all wound down to a homecoming feast, complete with balloons and soft piano music, for the man in red.

Visibly relieved and finally away from the crowds that celebrated his release on Friday, pardoned convict Joseph Estrada savored his first evening as a free man with family, close friends and political allies at his home in posh North Greenhills, San Juan City.

Prosecutors in his plunder trial, who only recently held a victory party of their own, may be shaking their heads in disbelief. Civil society leaders, who six years ago worked to have him im-

ERAP'S/ A18

Joseph Estrada is running in barangay polls

By Nancy Carvajal

JOSEPH ESTRADA IS STARTING (again) from scratch, running for a village council seat in Caloocan City.

Is the pardoned convicted plunderer going back on the terms of the executive clemency handed to him by Malacañang to great public anguish?

No fear. Estrada, the kagawad candidate running as an independent, is actually a 36-year-old namesake of the deposed President Joseph "Erap" Estrada who is now a free man after a presidential pardon canceled the punishment imposed on him by the Sandiganbayan antigraft court which found him guilty of stashing away hun-

JOSEPH / A8

Wildfires bring out warmth of Fil-Am families

By Nimfa U. Rueda
Correspondent

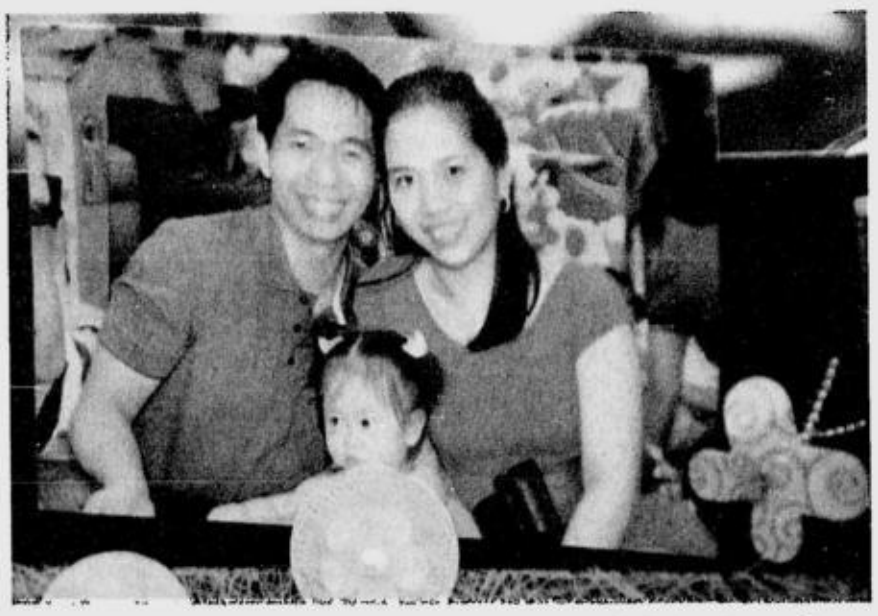
SAN DIEGO—WHEN ART MICIANO and his family evacuated their home in Escondido, a suburb in north San Diego county, to escape the spreading wildfires, they fled to the home of Miciano's brother in Chula Vista some 37 miles (59 kilometers) away.

Like the Micianos, many Filipino-Americans fleeing the wildfires in San Diego chose to stay with family instead of heading to an evacuation center.

"Filipinos have tight-knit and deep family ties, more than any other racial group," said Philippine Vice Consul

WILDFIRES/ A19

Losing Leslie: Hubby grieves, gives advice



FAMILY PICTURE of Carlo and Leslie Cruz and their little Amber freezes a moment of happiness. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

This e-mail (with minor changes) was originally sent by Carlo Cruz to members of his e-group. It is being published with his permission.—ED.

GOOD DAY, EVERYONE.

I wish I were writing under different circumstances.

I would like to inform you that my wife, Leslie Cruz, was one of the casualties in the Glorietta 2 mall bombing in Makati City, Philippines.

She was supposed to have minor outpatient surgery at the Makati Medical Center (MMC) at 2:30 p.m. I had taken a leave from work to accompany her there.

We dropped off our daughter, Amber, at my parents' place in Quezon City for babysitting at around 10 a.m. We then proceeded to Makati and got there at 12:30 p.m.

Since she had been fasting in preparation

LOSING/ A6

JOR Market
Come on over for the Big difference

Tales from the dead: How our ancestors clung to their social status to the very end
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Free Misuari, too: MNLF asks Gloria to pardon rebel leader
ACROSS / A16

How to attract shoppers back to Glorietta mall: Credit cardholders get exclusive after-hours discounted shopping
LIFESTYLE / C1

UP to honor grad chosen by Harvard as scientist of the year
NEWS / A19

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2007

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers becoming frequent rains over the Bicol region which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Occasional Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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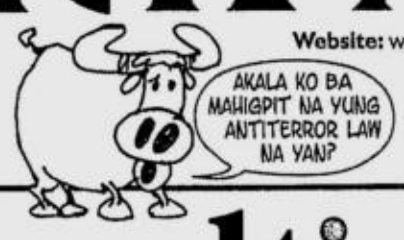

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GMA: Stiffer penalties for bombs

Palace, Congress working to beef up Human Security Act

By Christine O. Avendaño and Vincent Cabreza, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

EVEN AS INVESTIGATORS CONTINUE TO PROBE the cause of the Oct. 19 deadly explosion at the Glorietta 2 mall, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she wanted stiffer penalties for illegal possession of explosives.

The President said Malacañang was now working with Congress to strengthen the antiterror law, or the Human Security Act, by making the illegal possession of explosives a non-bailable offense.

"Our message must be clear: if you are armed and kill civilians, you will be prosecuted. If you are a communist terrorist, religious terrorist or even a rogue element of our own police or military, we will stop you," Ms Arroyo said in her speech at the 33rd Philippine Business Conference at Manila Hotel.

"We must be adequately empowered to crush the terrorist movement in the country and to transform our nation's response to political violence, ensuring that civil rights and social justice are available to all Filipinos, not just a privileged few."

The President gave assurances that the bill that the Palace is working on with Congress will have "ample safeguards and penalties against planted evidence."

Ms Arroyo stressed that her confidence in the military and police investigators remained "firm and solid" amid doubts expressed by some quarters about the authorities' initial finding that the blast, which killed 11 people and injured more than a hundred, may have been an industrial accident and not a terrorist bomb attack.

The police went on record a few days after the explosion last week to say that it was a "terror attack," but forensic experts have since reversed that stand.

Police said a combination of methane gas from a malfunctioning sewage system and diesel fumes from a fuel tank, both located in the building's basement, could have triggered the explosion—a claim disputed by the mall owner Ayala Land Inc., which said the conditions in the basement could not have led to such a massive blast.

In Baguio City, Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon Jr. yesterday said the only evidence recovered from the blast site that would suggest a bomb consisted of traces of a chemical that is also found in deodorant aerosol cans.

Razon said RDX (cyclotrimethylenetrinitramine) was the only circumstantial evidence that investigators had to support the theory that a bomb had been exploded at Glorietta 2. RDX is often used as the base chemical ingredient for a common explosive.

"RDX is not only a component of... C-4 or dynamite, it is also a... propellant used in aerosol cans [to discharge] hairspray or deodorants," he said.

Except for RDX, "there is no other conclusive evidence to show that it was a bomb blast," Razon said.

But the PNP chief said that was sufficient circumstantial evidence to assure the Australian government that the police had not dropped the terror angle in their ongoing investigation of the blast.

Razon, who was in Baguio as a guest during the Philippine Military Academy's recognition rites for 271 members of the "Laon Alab (Lakas Tipon Alay sa Bayan)" Class of 2011, said he was aware that Australian authorities last week had cautioned Malacañang against discounting the possibility that the explosion was a terrorist attack.

WHAT'S INSIDE

BISHOPS want Chief Justice Puno at helm of junta /A4

SATUR OCAMPO hits harassment of barangay poll candidates /A4

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LITO ATIENZA wants Laguna lake agency abolished /A7

FIL-AMERICAN chosen US Army's top soldier /A9

Senate may call Mike A, Neri to next hearing

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE SENATE IS GOING AHEAD with its investigation into the controversial National Broadband Network (NBN) project and may again invite the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and Commission of Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri, as well as others mentioned by whistleblower Jose de Venecia III, to appear at the next hearing.

Senate President Manuel Villar said committee members would take a vote on who to invite to the coming hearings.

Sen. Francis Escudero in a text message to the INQUIRER said: "As a matter of course, they should be invited and be given the chance to air their side after De Venecia III, son of Speaker Jose de Venecia, mentioned their names."

De Venecia in a hearing on Thursday claimed that, based on an alleged statement by International Container Terminal Services Inc. chair Enrique Razon, the First Gentleman would receive a $70-million windfall from ZTE Corp. for the NBN contract. The young De Venecia also mentioned the President's brother, Diosdado Macapagal Jr. and businessmen Luis Virata and Endika Aboitiz as either having given advice on the deal or as trying to broker a peace between the De Venecias and the President.

Razon denied De Venecia's claim, saying the Speaker's son was "hallucinating."

DAY OF SERVICE
Children from the Bahay Kalinga and Sun for All Children Foundation work on a multimedia mural at the Museo Pambata. Helping them are volunteers from the Philippine Daily Inquirer participating in Hands on Manila's Servathon 2007, a program in which hundreds of volunteers from different companies simultaneously undertake a community service project for the day all over Metro Manila. EUGENE ARANETA

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Gov who asked for P500,000 gets his wish

BACOLOD CITY—ASK AND YE SHALL receive.

After publicly demanding his share of the P500,000 cash doles given to some governors after a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang early this month, Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon finally got his wish.

Marañon said he was informed by Antique Gov. Sally Zaldivar-Perez that the "share" of Negros Occidental was deposited Friday to the provincial government's account in Land Bank of the Philippines.

He said the money would be placed in the provincial trust fund so it could be properly disbursed and accounted for.

But the governor said he did not know yet how he would use the money.

Perez, reached for comment yesterday, confirmed that P500,000 had been given to Marañon by the League of Provinces in the Philippines (LPP) for Negros Occidental's "alliance building seminars."

Perez, who represents Western Visayas in the LPP board of directors, said the cash was meant only for neophyte governors but since Marañon asked for a share, the LPP decided to give him the same amount, too.

She said the priority recipients in Western Visayas were neophyte Governors Felipe Nava of Guimaras and Victor Tangco of Capiz but she was also working for the shares of the other governors of the region.

Both Nava and Tangco had earlier denied receiving funds.

Tangco even expressed skepticism that the money really was from the LPP, saying the governors' league, which mainly operates using the annual dues of between P100,000 and P150,000 from the provincial governments, did not have the money to make that kind of dole to the governors. *Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

RP ranked 4th in dollar remittances

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE PHILIPPINES RANKED FOURTH among developing countries in terms of global remittance flows in 2006, according to a study released in Washington DC.

India received the most in remittances with $24.5 billion; followed by Mexico, $24.2 billion; China, $21 billion; the Philippines and Russia, $13.7 billion.

The study, released at the Oct. 19 International Forum on Remittances in Washington DC, was conducted by the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Migrant workers sent home more than $300 billion to their families in developing countries in 2006, the study said.

Asia was the top destination of remittances in 2006 with more than $114 billion, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean ($68 billion), Eastern Europe ($51 billion), Africa ($39 billion) and the Near East ($29 billion).

The remittances were generated by some 150 million migrants who send money home regularly, typically between $100 and $300 at a time, and mostly from industrialized nations in North America, Europe and Asia.

"This figure, which is a conservative estimate, shows that the seemingly small sums sent home by migrant workers, when added together, dwarf official development assistance," said IFAD's assistant president Kevin Cleaver.

Donor nations provided almost $104 billion in aid to developing countries last year, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Donald F. Terry, general manager of the IDB's Multilateral Investment Fund, pointed out that migrant remittances also surpassed foreign direct investment in developing countries, which last year totaled around $167 billion, according to the Institute of International Finance .

Cleaver and Terry presented the study, "Sending money home: Worldwide remittances to developing countries," and a map produced by IFAD, the first one to show remittances on a worldwide basis and to highlight the rural share of these flows.

Bacolod most business-friendly

BACOLOD CITY—THIS CITY BEAT 130 OTHers for the title of "Most Business-Friendly Local Government Unit in the Philippines" handed out Friday by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mayor Evelio Leonardia received the award from President Macapagal-Arroyo at the PCCI's 33rd Philippine Business Conference at Manila Hotel.

In congratulating Leonardia, the President said it would take the private sector working together with the government to create the jobs needed to build a strong middle class and a modern First World nation.

"Let us continue to move as one, thinking globally while taking pride in being Filipino," she said.

Bacolod was also named "Most Business-Friendly City in the Visayas" for the second time in a row. As a regional winner, it became a finalist in the yearly nationwide search along with other regional winners San Fernando, Pampanga (northern Luzon), Legaspi City (southern Luzon), Marikina City (National Capital Region) and Surigao City (Mindanao).

Leonardia said the award gave him "an overwhelming feeling because it is unprecedented and so prestigious."

"With this inspiration, we will pursue the organization of a business group that will have a common goal in promoting and further improving our economy in Bacolod," he said. *Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

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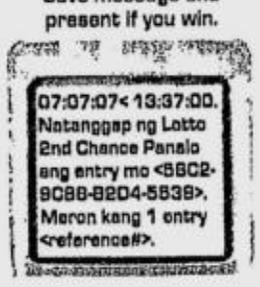

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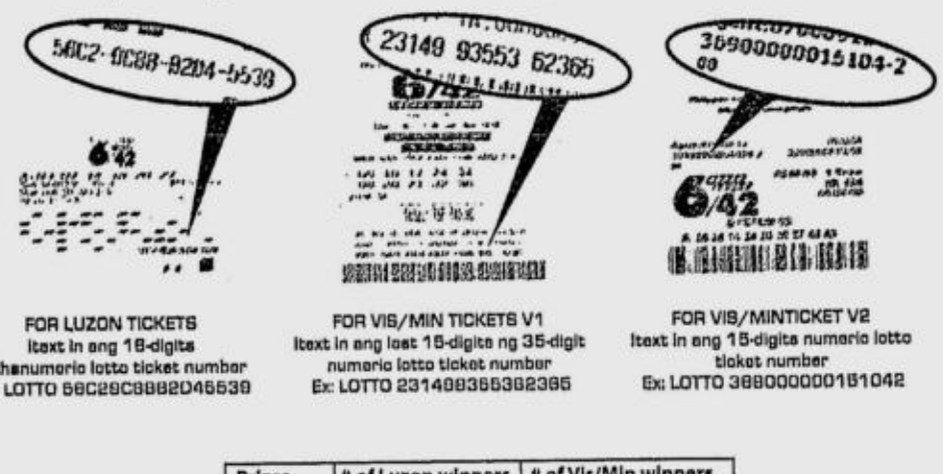

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Bishops want Puno at helm

'Chief Justice would head transition junta after GMA'

By Beverly T. Natividad

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT Teofisto Guingona yesterday joined three Catholic bishops in calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo to give way to a transition junta, which they want Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno to head.

Guingona, one of the leaders of the Genuine Opposition party of President Joseph Estrada, joined Bishop Antonio Tobias of Novaliches, Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez of Caloocan and Bishop Emeritus Julio Labayen of Infanta in the Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya (KME) which held a National Consultation Conference at St. Peter's Church in Quezon City.

Meeting the press, Guingona said that despite Malacañang's grant of a pardon to Estrada in a bid for national reunification, the taint of corruption from the China-funded National Broadband Network contract and the alleged bribery of governors, will not be forgotten. Ms Arroyo lacked the "moral ascendancy to govern," he added.

"Pardon or no pardon, Gloria should resign," he said, adding that the country's problems could only be resolved through a "moral rejuvenation."

"Parang awa mo na Gloria, umalis ka na diyan (We appeal to you, Gloria, please step down) because you have no moral ascendancy to stay in power," said Tobias.

Tobias announced that they were preparing to hold a protest rally on Nov. 30, National Heroes' Day, to step up their call for Ms Arroyo to resign.

On the proposed transition junta, Guingona said he was not ready to comment. "I still need to study that option."

But Jaime Regalario, KME chair, said in an interview that they were looking to replace Ms Arroyo with a caretaker government to be headed by Puno. This will apparently bypass those who are lined up in the Constitutional succession: Vice President Noli de Castro, Senate President Manuel Villar and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

Regalario said the group has not yet approached Puno about this idea.

The anti-Arroyo coalition, he added, was not only asking for Ms Arroyo's resignation but also for the resignation of all those who were "tainted" in government.

The KME's plan, he explained, mirrored what Bolivia did recently when its junta, which had ruled since 1964, handed the government over to the chief justice as the country prepared to launch reforms. Bolivia's transition government resulted in the election of its first indigenous president, Evo Morales.

Regalario said they want a Philippine transition government to formulate an interim constitution and dismantle the Commission on Elections to make way for electoral reforms during the transition period.

About 100 people attended the KME meeting.

Detained AFP officers say firing was cover-up

By Nikko Dizon

THE 28 OFFICERS DETAINED FOR THE February 2006 coup attempt are claiming that the order to discharge some of the enlisted men implicated in the alleged power grab was the military's way of hiding the truth about alleged electoral fraud that happened three years ago.

The group of Marine and Army Scout Ranger officers, detained in Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, for over a year now, also warned military chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. that "majority of the soldiers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines were nearing the tipping point."

"It is just a matter of time [before] the vast majority of the professional soldiers would say, enough is enough!" the group said in an unsigned statement addressed to the chief of staff they referred to as "Mister Esperon."

The group expressed the belief that Esperon had ordered the discharge of 26 of their men and merely "passed on the responsibility" to Army chief Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano.

This, they said, was Esperon's supposed cowardly manner of taking up their dare for him to tell the truth about his alleged participation in the election fraud in 2004.

The 26 were among the 40 soldiers of the elite Army unit who had been detained with the officers for over a year without formal charges.

"Mister Esperon, you are wrong, very wrong, to think that by discharging our enlisted personnel from the service, you have hurt our cause to seek the truth. No! That is your way of challenging the members of the Armed Forces to touch you if they can. That is your way of telling them that you can do anything that you please," the group said.

The statement was distributed to reporters on Friday at the court-martial hearing of the detained officers, led by former Marine Commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, former First Scout Ranger Regiment commander, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, and Medal of Valor awardee Marine Col. Ariel Querubin.

The hearing was suspended after the lawyers of the military officers failed to show up.

Lawyers Trixie Cruz-Angeles and Vicente Verdadero said in separate phone interviews that they received a notice of hearing only on Wednesday which did not give them ample time to adjust their schedules.

Angeles also said that Esperon had not signed the pre-trial agreement (PTA), the basis for the officers' court-martial, which would make any hearing at this point futile.

The defense lawyers argued that the unsigned PTA made the court-martial illegal and, consequently, also the detention of their clients.

Verdadero also accompanied the 26 enlisted men to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday to discuss their dishonorable discharge.

Verdadero said the original recommendation of the Army Inspector General was for a reprimand and an admonition and not to discharge the men from the military service for their alleged participation in the attempted power grab.

The lawyer added that he would clarify with the Inspector General on Tuesday next week the basis for the soldiers' dishonorable discharge.

Cops, soldiers on red alert for polls, Nov. 1

By Alcuin Papa

THE POLICE AND THE MILITARY WERE placed on red alert nationwide yesterday ahead of the barangay elections and the observance of All Saints' Day next week.

Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Lt. Bartolome Bacarro said the AFP went on red alert nationwide effective yesterday noon for the barangay elections on Monday.

"We will support the PNP to maintain peace and order (during the elections)," Bacarro said in a text message to reporters.

In Metro Manila, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Director Geary Barias told the INQUIRER that he declared a full alert for all policemen in Metro Manila beginning today.

Barias also ordered the deployment of 5,000 policemen to the streets of the metropolis.

The police will be supported by 600 soldiers from the AFP's National Capital Region Command (NCRComm).

Barias added that the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) students and reservist forces have also been deputized by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to ensure peace and order during the elections.

He said the full alert for Metro Manila policemen would extend all the way to the All Saints' Day observance.

Barias likewise ordered increased police visibility in bus terminals, major thoroughfares and cemeteries.

"We want to avoid violent incidents like the one that happened in Marikina in 1998," Barias said.

Satur hits harassment of barangay poll bets

By Jerome Aning

BAYAN MUNA REP. SATUR Ocampo yesterday denounced the reported harassment by the military of barangay candidates belonging to Kaguimungan-Cagayan Valley, a provincial peasant group affiliated with the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

In a press conference in Quezon City, Ocampo said he feared for the lives of the candidates in Monday's barangay elections in Baggao, Cagayan.

Ocampo said he would bring the matter to the attention of the House of Representatives and call to account the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the defense department and the President for the escalating human rights violations in the country.

A task force sent by Bayan Muna and rights group Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (EMJP) reported that incumbent councilors Isabelo Adviento and Ronald Reyes of Barangay Carrupian, Baggao, were being targeted for "neutralization" by the Army's 17th Infantry Battalion.

"The 17th IB launched a systematic hate and demonization campaign against members and leaders of Kaguimungan. We fear the military's campaign could lead to extrajudicial killings like what happened to previous leaders of the farmers group," Task Force Baggao reported.

The group recalled the consecutive killings last year of three Kaguimungan leaders, namely, Joey Javier, Arthur Orpilla and Dionisio Battad.

Javier was killed in October 2006 in Barangay Bagunot. Orpilla and Battad were allegedly invited by the military to the 17th ID detachment in neighboring Barangay Bagunot on March 27 this year, and were found dead three days later.

EMJP acting secretary general Girlie Padilla reported that the soldiers threatened and harassed residents who belonged to organizations deemed to be left-leaning; some were subjected to a curfew, while others accused of being members of the communist New People's Army (NPA) were "invited" to the military camp for questioning.

Correction

IN THE OCT. 27 ISSUE, a front-page story—"President felt good after agony"—misspelled the name of a Surigao del Sur representative. The congressman's name is Florencio—not Florencia—Garay.

* * *

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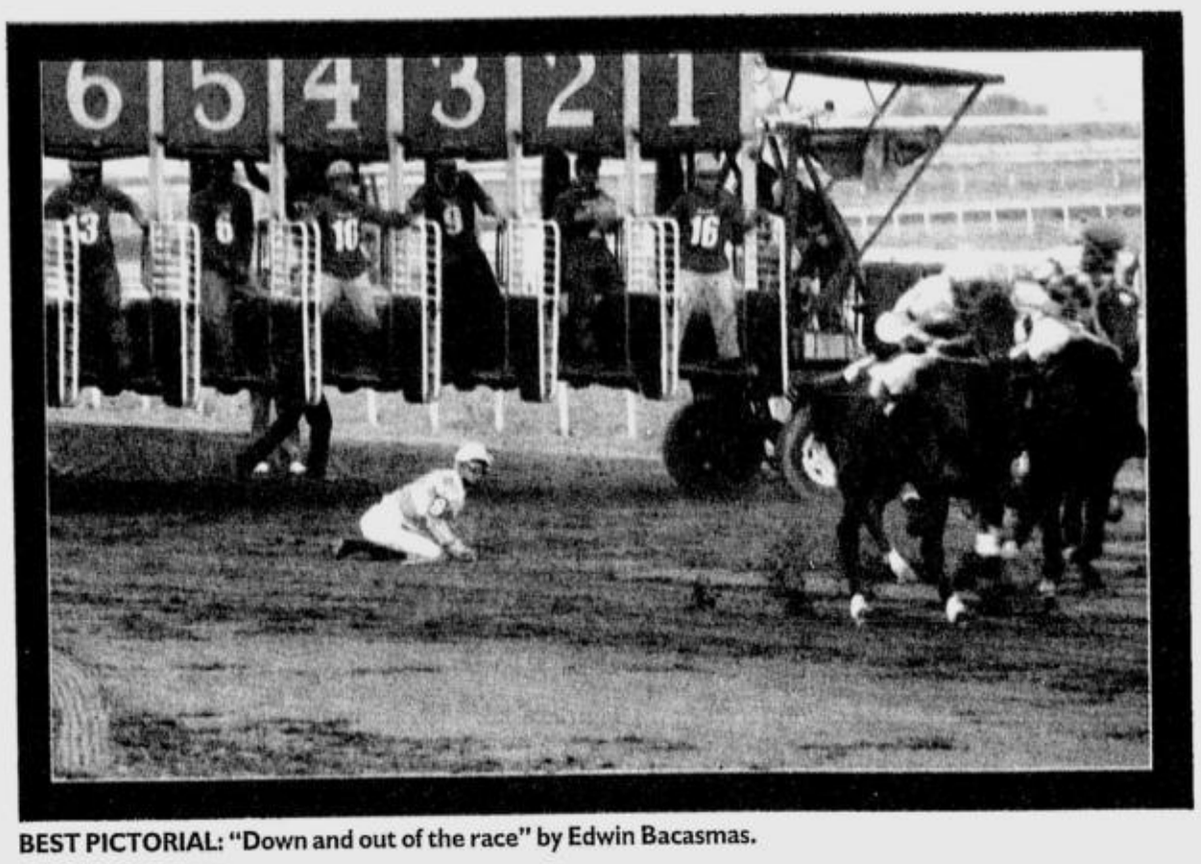

BEST PICTORIAL: "Down and out of the race" by Edwin Bacasmas.

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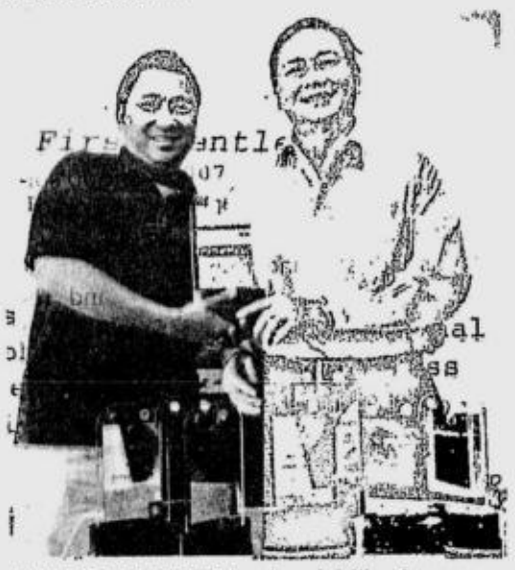
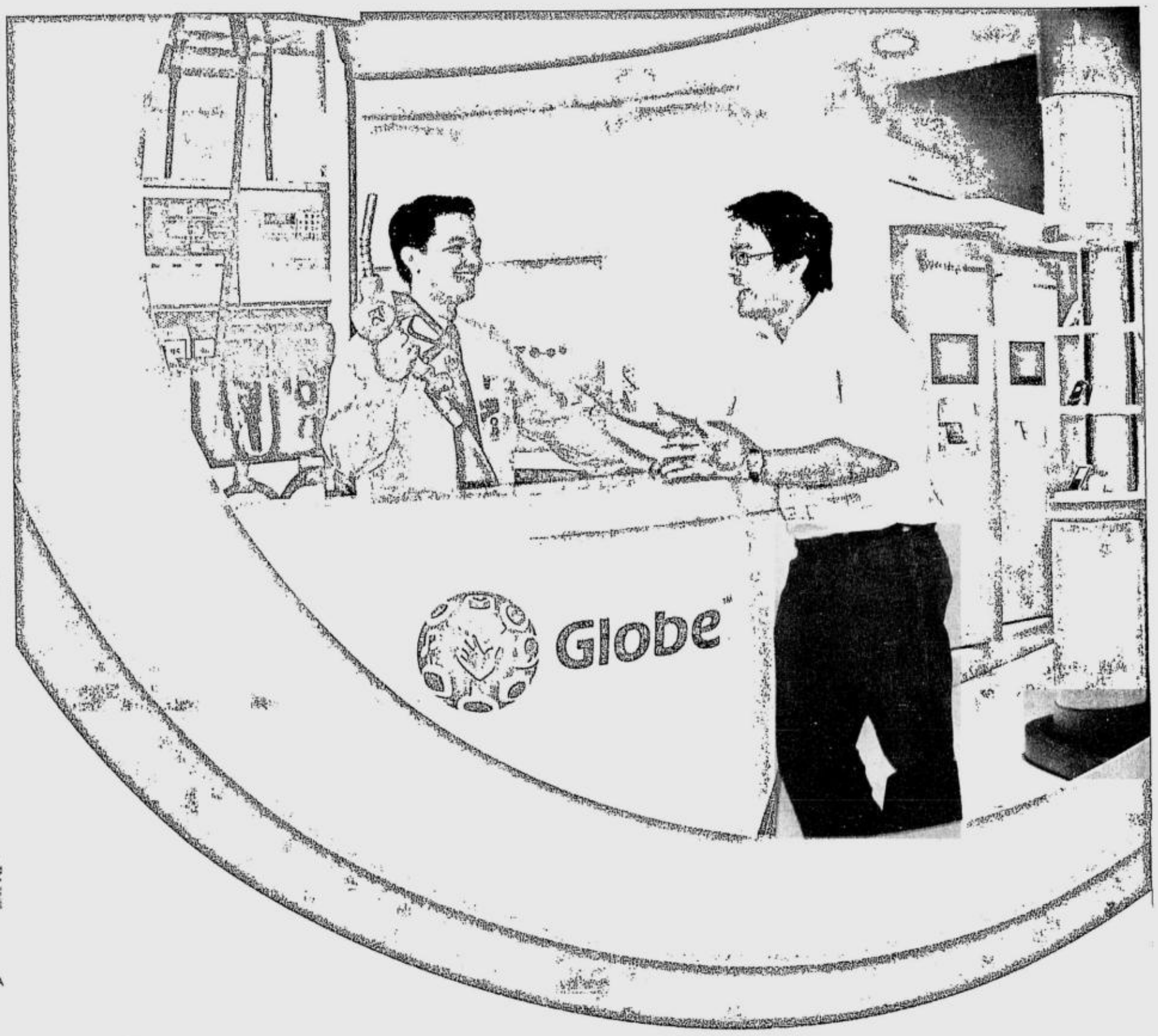


THE PRESIDENT'S husband, Mike Arroyo, presents to PDI chief photographer Ernie Sarmiento one of eight trophies won by INQUIRER photographers. CHITO VECINA



Inquirer sweeps photo tilt

From page A1

showed former Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. eyeing Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) Chair Romulo Neri testifying at the Senate Blue Ribbon committee investigation of the controversial ZTE Corp. National Broadband Network deal.

Bacasmas also bagged top honors in the Best Human Interest, Photo Essay, Ecology and "Wow Philippines" categories.

The photo titled "Foothead" taken by Lyn Rillon of a gymnast executing a difficult maneuver in the last Southeast Asian Games held in Manila in 2005 garnered a perfect score of 15 points and won "Photo of the Year" award. She bested more than 600 entries. Rillon also bagged the Sports photo category with the same entry.

Rudy Liwanag of the Manila Bulletin won the Government Officers in Action category and Mariane Bermudez, also of the Bulletin, won the Juror's Choice Award.

The photo contest is an annual event for some 200 photojournalist-members from different publications around the country.

The contest was shelved in 2000 because of lack of funds and was revived this year by its new president, Revoli Cortez, former staff photographer of the Philippine Star.

Cortez said First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, a serious photography hobbyist, came to the rescue and helped in financing the project. The other sponsors were PCSO, Pagcor, Presidential Management Staff, Office of the Press Secretary, Presidential Security Group, DILG, Department of Tourism, Department of Agriculture, Chowking, Philip Morris, Columbia Digital, CEMEX and Writersedge.

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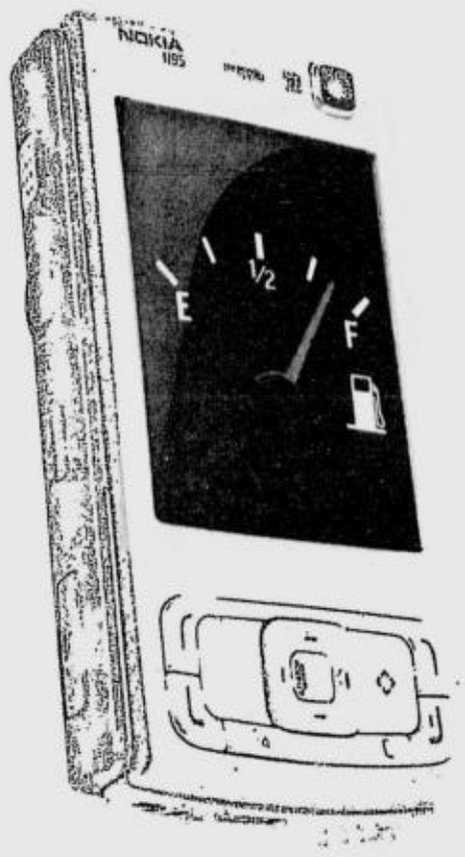

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E-mail meant for e-group moves strangers to tears in cyberspace

Carlo Cruz holds daughter Amber who thinks her mama is just sleeping. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Jeannette I. Andrade

IT BEGAN AS A FORMAL LETTER by a man to his employers, asking for time off to grieve for a loved one.

Carlo Cruz, 31, did not anticipate that the first two paragraphs of the letter would evolve into one of the most widely forwarded and read e-mail messages about the Oct. 19 explosion at the Glorietta 2 mall in Makati City.

"I intended it first to be an e-mail to my company to explain that I needed more time away from the office. I never finished the formal letter, nor was I able to send it," Cruz told the INQUIRER.

His feeling then, he said, was that he did not need to explain why he had to take time off to grieve for his wife, Maria Celeste "Leslie" Cruz, who was killed in the explosion.

At 3 a.m. of Oct. 23, Cruz started to compose the rest of the letter, this time seeking prayers for Leslie from his coparticipants at a church-based marriage seminar, "Discovery Weekend."

To help him pray

"I wanted to share the situation. Tell them how much I love her and express my regret for not being there," Cruz said.

"I was worried that she was lost. I felt that she was still in the dark. I wanted people to help me pray, thinking that prayers would light up her way to heaven," he said.

Little did he know that his e-mail to the "Discovery Weekend" e-group would be forwarded by the recipients through the information highway, moving many strangers to tears.

Cruz said he was surprised when, at Leslie's wake at the Mount Carmel Church in Quezon City, people came up to him to say how touched they were by his e-mail.

He said all he could say was "thank you," knowing that he had somehow gotten his message across.

Very beautiful

"She was very beautiful," Cruz said of Leslie, recalling their first meeting in 1998.

She was then working at Fujitsu and he at "We Serve," an affiliate of the company.

He never dreamed that such an unromantic movie as "The Thirteenth Warrior" could serve as the spark. On Dec. 27, 1999, she became his girlfriend.

"We always knew we would get married. She even helped me design the engagement ring. We were already planning the church, the hotel, and we already had the date in mind," Cruz said.

But in the three years that they were "engaged," she had been waiting for a formal proposal, he said.

The realization finally hit him: "I woke up one day with the thought, 'I can live with her for the rest of my life.' It just felt right. Everything was perfect even if we had our ups and downs. *Siya ang pumasok agad sa isip ko, pagkagising ko* (It was she whom I thought of when I woke up)."

Popping the question

The circumstances of Cruz's "formal proposal" were not as ideal as he would have wanted.

He had hidden the engagement ring somewhere beneath the passenger seat of his car, thinking to pop the question after he and Leslie had arranged for the wedding reception at the Manila Peninsula in Makati.

When they got to the hotel, it was Leslie who pointed at the ring sitting in a crystal case on the car floor.

"What's that?" she said.

Cursing at his lack of foresight that the ring would eventually move across the car floor during the trip, he picked up the case and finally asked her: "Will you marry me?"

The two of them laughed at the awkwardness of the situation, but she said yes, anyway.

They were married at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park on Nov. 28, 2003.

2 bands

Almost four years after their wedding day, Cruz wears two identical platinum bands on his ring fingers—one belonging to Leslie and engraved "Trust" on his left hand, and his own ring engraved "Love" on his right.

"These are two things that build a relationship. Without one or the other, a relationship doesn't matter," Cruz said, adding that wearing Leslie's ring assured him that she was still around.

Leslie's ring was damaged in the explosion, but he promised never to have it repaired, flawed as it is.

Asked if their year-old daughter Amber was aware that her mother had passed on, Cruz simply said: "She knows that her Mama is sleeping."

Leslie was buried yesterday at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City. Her husband's e-mail message, a testament to love, lives.

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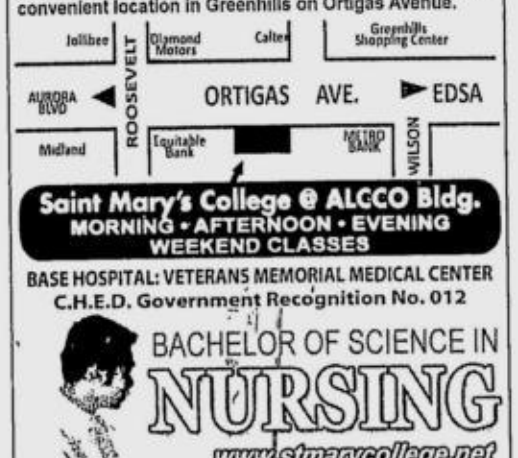

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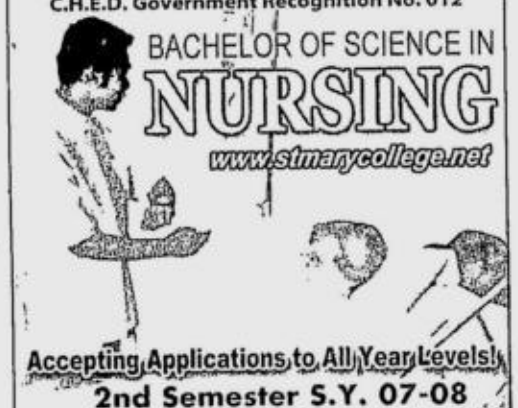

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Losing Leslie ...

From page A1

for her procedure, she wanted to move around and listen to some music while I grabbed a bite to eat.

We parked at the basement of Park Square 2, and headed for the Glorietta 2 entrance. We parted at the top of the escalator—she turned right toward Filbar's while I went left toward the restaurants.

That was the last time I would see her.

'My heart dropped'

At around 1:20 p.m., she called me so that we could meet at the Glorietta 2 exit just in time to make her appointment.

As I made my way there from Glorietta 1 through the connecting hallways, and was about to turn the corner, I heard two deep thumps and the shock wave from the blast hit me.

At that moment, my heart dropped as I knew that the origin of the blast was the same place where we were supposed to meet.

I tried getting to where my wife was, but the dust was too much and it was as if I was staring at a white wall.

I still tried to convince myself that she was able to make it out, and that her not responding to my calls on her mobile phone only meant that she had dropped it in the confusion.

It was only after six hours of searching, from MMC to Ospital ng Makati, the blast site, and back again to MMC, with the help of all the people I could get hold of, that I was able to get confirmation on the state of my wife.

My dad and uncle signaled me in from the ER of MMC. My uncle (who's a doctor) asked me to describe Leslie's appearance to another group of doctors.

I saw in the eyes of one that the description made sense. Instead of confirming it to me, they huddled together, then brought me to a small examination room.

It was only through a digital camera that I was able to confirm (and deny) that she was indeed gone.

'I should have...'

I have so many regrets. I should have met her sooner. I should have run instead of done a brisk walk. I should have not chosen to park where I did. I should have braved the dust and went to the blast site.

I should have ...

Today's the fourth day. It is still terribly difficult to breathe, let alone wake up realizing that your source of strength, your best friend, doesn't lie beside you on your bed.

My deepest worry is when Amber starts asking for her Mama.

I am glad that Amber's too young to understand the loss and pain. In time I would like to tell her the details of how her mother died, but more importantly, I would like to raise her as how her mother lived—a loving person, strong-willed, decisive, caring and nurturing.

She had always cared for her family and friends, and sacrificed her career to be a full-time mom and homemaker.

'Cherish each moment'

Like all other couples, we had our ups and downs—none of which I regret going through. The sweet is never as sweet without the sour.

For almost four years of marriage, we had finally hit our balance in life, only for it to be taken away in an instant.

I have no regrets about our marriage. She loved me and Amber beyond her capacity. I will always love her.

It is my first time to write to an e-group as I've lurked and watched e-mails being sent to and fro. All I want now is for each of the couples here to cherish each moment that we spend with our loved ones.

Pretty simple to say, very easy to take for granted.

Thank you all for the prayers. I would still like to ask you to please include Leslie in them until her 40th day, so that the path to God's kingdom will be well-lit and she will no longer be in the dark.

Sincerely,
Carlo Cruz

Atienza wants LLDA abolished over fishpens

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY LITO ATIENZA wants the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) abolished for its failure to abolish thousands of illegal fishpens that are slowly destroying Laguna de Bay.

"The problem in the Laguna Lake area is the LLDA itself. I would push for its abolition to give a permanent solution to the problem," Atienza said in a statement.

He blamed the LLDA for the proliferation of fishpens in the lake that had turned the body of water from a public domain into an "enclave of businessmen" that own fishpens.

"One of the main factors that continue to kill the bay are the fishpens which have already been abused by the LLDA because it allowed them to be opened," he said.

LLDA chair Edgar Manda rejected Atienza's call, however, pointing out that the agency has its hands full addressing a host of shoreline problems, apart from the pollution caused by fishpens and cages.

He said he would start dismantling the illegal fishpens once he had assembled a team to do so.

"He's only looking at the fishpen problem. The LLDA is doing its job in industrial pollution. What will he replace it with? I don't agree that it should be abolished at this time," Manda said in a phone interview.

Atienza, a member of the LLDA board, had vowed to dismantle illegal fishpens from the time he took over the post from Angelo Reyes in August.

His call for the LLDA's abolition came weeks after LLDA declared that the lake could be dead in five years if no action was taken to restore its water quality. *TJ Burgonio*

PCGG should bare Lucio Tan papers–SC

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME Court has refused to allow the Presidential Commission on Good Government to keep under wraps documents dealing with the sequestration of assets of Lucio Tan and several others, saying the commission was not exempt from complying with orders of the Sandiganbayan.

The high court dismissed the PCGG's petition to reverse the Sandiganbayan's subpoena for the documents relating to the sequestration case involving shares of stock belonging to Tan and several other persons and companies in Allied Banking Corp., as well as the firm's two aircraft.

The others whose shares in ABC were sequestered were Iris Holdings and Development Corp., Mariano Tanenglian, Virgo Holdings and Development Corp., Ignacio Jimenez and Jewel Holdings Inc.

The shareholders had asked the antigraft court to subpoena from the PCGG the documents on which the sequestration order was based so that they could determine whether the order was validly issued.

They asked that PCGG records officer Lourdes Magno be directed to produce the documents before the court.

The Sandiganbayan granted the shareholders' request and issued a subpoena requiring Magno to produce the documents. The PCGG then filed a motion to quash the subpoena with the antigraft court, which it rejected.

The PCGG then elevated the issue to the high court, saying that its charter provided that its members could not be required to testify or produce evidence in any judicial, administrative or legislative proceeding.

But the high tribunal said Section 4(b) of Executive Order No. 1, which the PCGG said provided for the exemption, had already been repealed by the 1987 Constitution.

"Accordingly, petitioner cannot shield Lourdes Magno, its records officer, from complying with the subpoena by invoking the provision of Section 4(b) of Executive Order No. 1," the tribunal said in its Oct. 18 decision.

It also said the PCGG failed to show that the subpoena was unreasonable or oppressive.

"As aptly stated by private respondents, the documents sought are material and relevant to the issue and are properly described and identified in their motion for issuance," it said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 28, 2007
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18

The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds.

The Lord is judge and shows no partiality. He will not disadvantage the poor, he who hears the prayer of the oppressed. He does not disdain the plea of the orphan, nor the complaint of the widow. The one who serves God wholeheartedly will be heard; his petition will reach the clouds. The prayer of the humble person pierces the clouds, and he is not consoled until he has been heard. His prayer will not cease until the Most High has looked down, until justice has been done in favor of the righteous.

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

I have kept the faith.

As for me, I am already poured out as a libation, and the moment of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness with which the Lord, the just judge, will reward me on that day; and not only me, but all those who have longed for his glorious coming.

At my first hearing in court no one supported me; all deserted me. May the Lord not hold it against them. But the Lord was at my side, giving me strength to proclaim the Word fully, and let all the pagans hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will save me from all evil, bringing me to his heavenly kingdom. Glory to him for ever and ever. Amen!

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

The publican and the Pharisee.

Jesus told another parable to some persons fully convinced of their own righteousness, who looked down on others, "Two men went up to the Temple to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and said: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people, grasping, crooked, adulterous, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give the tenth of all my income to the Temple.'

"In the meantime the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast saying: 'O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.'

"I tell you, when this man went down to his house, he had been set right with God, but not the other. For whoever makes himself out to be great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be raised."

Commentary

Our God is the God of justice. God hears the cry of the oppressed and is not deaf to the wail of the orphan or widow. The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds—do we hear like God hears or are we deaf to others? God will affirm those who do what is right—does God have cause to affirm us? Paul is in prison and is looking at death approaching him. He prays that God the judge will award him and all those who have looked forward to his coming. The Lord is with him, in court, in prison, and always. Do we live with this faith and hope and rely on God's presence with us when it is hard to see how what is happening to us can be for our good?

Jesus tells us of the two who go to pray. One lists everything he does that is right and good—in case God hasn't noticed or appreciated what he has done for him, in obeying the law and being religious. And then there is the man who knows his sin and asks mercy—keeping his distance, crying out. The prayer of the man who knows who he is in truth before God, is heard, long before the other who disdains others and does not know God or himself. How do we pray?

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BARANGAY ELECTIONS

Different folks, different strokes

By Julie M. Aurelio
and Jeannette I. Andrade

IT'S DIFFERENT STROKES FOR different folks in the campaign for the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

While a line of cars, jeepneys and tricycles noisily negotiating the streets was a common sight in many barangays, particularly at the close of the campaign period yesterday, a "silent" activity was waged in affluent areas.

In posh Barangay Ayala Alabang in Muntinlupa City, for example, there were no loudspeakers spewing a campaign jingle or a candidate's spiel.

Instead, Barangay Chair Roland Pineda sent his neighbors and the other residents a simple message through e-mail and text: Reelect him.

"We don't campaign the traditional way, with all the show and the music. We do it by communication," he said.

Pineda is on his second term as chair of the exclusive barangay-subdivision where at least 90 percent of the residents have their own computers and Internet access at home.

Ayala Alabang has a population of around 40,000.

Pineda keeps a database of the residents' e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers, to which he sent his pitch for reelection.

"But that's the only thing I [tell] them. Nothing personal against the other candidates," he said.

A bit of privacy

Through his silent campaign, Pineda not only spent less but also ran a lesser risk of annoying the residents with booming music and poster-plastered walls.

"People want a bit of privacy. They just want to rest and relax," he said.

Pineda pointed out that in Ayala Alabang, candidates had a higher chance of getting votes if their campaign style was not intrusive or showy.

"If you campaign openly here, they won't vote for you. You can't come across as a '*trapo*' (traditional politician)," he said, adding that he had discouraged his *kagawad* (councilors) from spending too much on their campaign.

He expressed the hope that his low-key approach to getting votes would serve as a model and would be "emulated in the other barangays."

Personal approach

He also said one of his key concerns was to maintain strict security measures in his turf—"of course, not only within the barangay but also in the commercial establishments in the vicinity."

But it was the old-fashioned way—personal contact and house-to-house visits—in other areas in Muntinlupa.

In Barangay Alabang, for example, incumbent chair Vic Ulanday attended around two or three caucuses a night while on the campaign trail.

He said he and the other contenders for the chairmanship employed practically the same approach—"making the rounds, visiting homes."

He himself delivered speeches at daycare centers on his priority programs, and knocked on the residents' doors to introduce himself.

Ulanday said he found the personal approach—pressing the flesh while handing out leaflets—a more effective means of getting votes.

"It's more direct because it's person-to-person," he said.

Ulanday did not use text messaging to get his spiel across to his neighbors and other constituents.

"People here change cell phone numbers easily," he said by way of explanation.

And no, Alabang apparently does not have as high an access to the Internet as Ayala Alabang.

Helper power

The house helpers rule in Barangay Ugong Norte in Quezon City, at least as far as the barangay elections are concerned.

According to barangay secretary Jessie Borgonia, the votes coming from stay-in housemaids and houseboys are vital to the success of aspiring barangay leaders.

"Residents here rarely vote in the barangay elections. They usually participate only in national and mayoral elections," Borgonia said.

Only the house helpers almost always exercise their right to suffrage in their barangay because they cannot go to their respective provinces to vote, she said.

Ugong Norte is made up of such posh subdivisions as Corinthian Gardens, Green Meadows and Valle Verde.

Thus, Borgonia said, it would be ill-advised for those aspiring for barangay posts to campaign door to door or turn up the loudspeaker.

To introduce themselves, candidates are restricted to sending out letters and fliers or putting up posters and streamers (when homeowners allow them to).

But certain candidates are sometimes able to sneak in a spiel, if not to the homeowners, then to the helpers.

"Sometimes there are security guards who allow the candidates to talk to the house helpers to win their votes. At times, the candidates are able to get phone numbers to talk personally with the housemaids," Borgonia said.

20 percent

House helpers make up 20 percent of the voting population in Ugong Norte, according to Borgonia.

They also make up the clientele of the barangay hall.

Rarely do the homeowners avail themselves of barangay adjudication to settle neighborhood disputes, Borgonia said. She said most of the complaints filed in the barangay hall involved helpers allegedly maltreated by their employers.

In effect, Borgonia said, the helpers held in their hands the outcome of the barangay elections.

She said the campaign expenses in Ugong Norte were minimal because the candidates were not required to come up with catchy jingles to blare out through loudspeakers mounted onto a fleet of vehicles roaming the barangay.

Nor did they need to have a large quantity of campaign T-shirts made.

But the very exclusivity of Ugong Norte leaves most of the candidates in the dark as to who is edging out whom, making for a suspense-filled voting exercise.

More money

Ironically, in Barangay Payatas—considered one of the poorest communities in Quezon City—the candidates are compelled to shell out more money to ensure name recall.

The expenses cover the production of giveaways, printing of fliers, posters and streamers, and composition of campaign jingles.

Payatas, made famous by its garbage dump, is home to a population of 112,690 and has three barangay halls to accommodate constituents in need of adjudication or other services.

It is divided into Payatas A and Payatas B.

An official of the barangay, requesting anonymity, said vote-buying was rampant during barangay elections.

But he said voters were more cunning now than before: "They take the money offered to them but, come election time, vote for the candidate they want."

With 10 candidates vying for the chairmanship, the costs of running are likely to be high.

But, the official said, residents had become more aware and were starting to ask where the money was coming from, whether a candidate should spend too much, and how a candidate would get a return on the "investment."

Perhaps in no other place can the relevance of barangay elections be emphasized than in Payatas, where the intervention of leaders is sought to settle the most minor of disputes.

The primary concern is peace and order. Barangay police and members of the security office—divided into 13 teams—conduct routine patrols and break up spats that constantly erupt at night.

Police deployment

In Mindanao, policemen have been deployed in several towns to ensure the orderly conduct of the barangay and SK elections.

At least 80 new police officers were deployed in "areas of concern" in 14 towns of Davao del Sur and Digos City.

Senior Supt. Samuel Navaja said among those being watched were barangays where members of the communist New People's Army (NPA) were purportedly preparing to try to influence the outcome of the polls.

"Our mission, aside from protecting these barangays, is also to educate the people so that they will not be misled by the rebels," Navaja said.

The Davao Oriental police chief, Senior Supt. Jimmy Manabat, said what made the elections "hot" in the province was the participation of candidates identified with the NPA and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"The NPA and the MILF have fielded their own candidates," he said. "And they may resort to violence if the people do not vote for their candidates."

Tarragona is a known lair of the MILF and is one of the areas of concern in Davao Oriental.

In Zamboanga City, a ranking military official said communist rebels in Western Mindanao have also been openly campaigning for their candidates.

Maj. Eugene Batara, spokesperson of the Western Mindanao Command, said that because the barangay elections were "localized," the "masses" were more vulnerable "to exploitation by the rebels."

Peace covenant

Senior Supt. Nestor Camba, provincial police chief of North Cotabato, said a peace covenant had been signed by warring politicians involved in the Thursday strafing incident in Pigcawayan town.

One person was killed and four others, including a candidate for the barangay council of Patot, were injured in the incident.

Camba said police operatives would be deployed to Patot tomorrow.

In Zamboanga City, policemen will also be deployed to the three newly created towns in Basilan.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, police chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), said that although Marines had been deputized by the Commission on Elections, they would not be deployed to the towns of Albarka, Tipo-tipo Central and Sumisip—sites of recent bloody encounters with armed groups.

Comelec-ARMM director Vidzar Julie said the local communities had requested that Marines not be deputized in the three towns to minimize the risk of armed encounters and the possible disruption of the elections.

The Marines will be deployed all over Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi, but not in the three towns.

Goltiao told the INQUIRER that he foresaw "peaceful elections" in the region, with Maguindanao likely to be "very peaceful" and Lanao del Sur "troublesome."

"Most of the barangay captains in Maguindanao are running unopposed, so we see no problem there," he said.

So far, two barangay chairs in the ARMM have been killed. *With reports from Edwin Fernandez, Ferdinand Zuasola Julie Alipala and Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

"BRO. JO" poses with his family, son Jasper, wife Jenny and daughter Justine behind his campaign poster. ROMY HOMILLADA

Joseph Estrada is running ...

From page A1

dreds of millions of pesos in illegal gambling bribes and kickbacks. A condition of the pardon is that he never again attempts to seek public office.

The younger Estrada, nicknamed Bro. Jo, is a high school graduate who has worked as a wood carver in a furniture shop and a security guard in a store selling office supplies.

Estrada, who was interviewed in the three-story house he shares with relatives at Barangay 21, Zone 2 in Caloocan, said he never thought being the namesake of the disgraced but still hugely popular leader would be an advantage until he decided to run.

But while bearing a popular name opened some doors, it has also placed him in awkward situations.

He recounted how when he filed his certificate of candidacy, the clerks at the Commission on Elections office in Caloocan questioned him closely when they saw the name written on the document.

"It never fails. They would always ask me if I was joking or give me a look until I show them my identification cards," Estrada said.

The most memorable encounters occurred whenever he had to get clearances from government agencies.

"I always bring an ID to avoid being accused of pulling a prank, " he said.

Estrada said his name has become a running joke that even his children have not been spared.

His son would be called "Jinggoy" every time he showed up or called his father at the latter's office.

"*Pangulo, si Jinggoy nasa telepono*," (Mr. President, Jinggoy is on the phone)," his office mates would tease him.

The young Estrada's status moved up or down with every change in the deposed President's political fortunes.

He has been addressed by close friends and associates as mayor, senator and president, depending on the current position occupied by his namesake.

Even Erap's rest house arrest in his lavish Tanay villa has somehow affected the younger Estrada.

"*O di ba nasa Tanay ka, bakit ka nandito?*" (Hey, you're supposed to be in Tanay, why are you here?)," security guards would tell him jokingly whenever he showed his identification card upon entering a building.

All of this he owed to his father who gave him the name, said Bro. Jo.

"I was born in 1971 at the height of the popularity of the former President as a movie actor," he explained.

Estrada, who was a barangay volunteer for three years before deciding to run for a barangay position, said he and Erap have in common their love for and desire to help the poor.

"I admire the President and share his love for the less fortunate," said Estrada.

"I hope I can continue in my own little way the promises of the former President," he said.

He would like to build a health center in his barangay to help senior citizens avail of free medical check-ups.

"I may not be rich like him, but I have the same intentions to help the less fortunate people and the elderly," Estrada said.

And if he should ever meet the deposed President, he would tell him how much he admired him "for his courage in going through what he did and his compassion to forgive the people who have wronged him," said Estrada.

"The goodness of his heart has never failed to touch me," he said.

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Fil-Am is US Army's top soldier

By Alcuin Papa

A FILIPINO-AMERICAN BESTED 25 others from different units of the United States Army to win the distinction of being the US Army's best soldier.

Specialist Heyz Seeker, 35, whose mother hails from Bohol, was named "Soldier of the Year," according to Army.Mil, the US Army's official homepage.

To win the award, Seeker, who has visited the Philippines only once in his lifetime, had to compete in a series of mental and physical tests held from Oct. 1 to 5 at Fort Lee in Virginia.

The competition included M-4 rifle qualification, day and night urban warfare, battle drills, a written exam on military topics, an essay, a physical fitness test, battle drills and a mystery event.

Seeker represented the US Army Special Operations Command in the competition. He is currently stationed at Hunger Army Airfield, Georgia, with the 75th Ranger Regiment.

He told the Army website that three tours of duty in Afghanistan and one in Iraq helped him prepare for the competition.

"I love the Army, and I love living a structured life," he said. "I'm all about paving the way, leading the way and being the first at something. I was the first in my family to be a ranger, and I'd like to one day become the first Filipino sergeant major of the Army."

Seeker lists his hometown as Grover, California, but his family is now based in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Born to Filipino parents in Atascadero, California, Seeker grew up in Grover. His father died when he was 2 years old and his mother remarried when he was 10.

His mother, Maxima Voelker, is from Bohol. Seeker's first and only trip to the Philippines was when he was 15. He grew up hearing stories of how both his father and stepfather had fought in World War II.

According to a news release from the Army's Public Affairs Office, Seeker nurtured an interest in cooking. He plans to put up a sushi bar when he retires from the Army.

Children may see animals for free

FOR FIVE DAYS UP to Oct. 31, children will be given free admission to the Manila Zoo.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim ordered city parks and recreation bureau chief Deng Manimbo to let children in for free as part of the city's observance of Children's Month or "Pista ng Batang Pilipino." Their parents, however, would still have to pay to get in.

Lim said even children who are not residents of Manila would be given a free pass. *Tina G. Santos*

UST law alumni set fete

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Law Alumni Foundation Inc. will celebrate the 273rd anniversary of the faculty of civil law and hold an alumni homecoming on Nov. 24 at Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City.

The homecoming, which will start at 6 p.m. with a jubilee Mass, will include an awarding ceremony for alumni and a presentation of the Jubilarians—golden (1957), emerald (1962), ruby (1967), coral (1972), pearl (1977), silver (1982), and tin (1997).

Officers of the student council and the heads of other student bodies are expected to take part in the affair.

Prizes will be given away during the night of music, courtesy of the Lennon Law Band, and dancing.

The foundation's trustees and board officers are Judge Oscar C. Herrera Jr., president, Dean Alfredo L. Benipayo, Justices Angelina S. Gutierrez, Bernardo P. Abesamis, Diosdado M. Peralta Jr., Teresita V. Diaz-Baldoz, Monina A. Zenarosa, Judge Oscar B. Pimentel, Gov. Lutgardo B. Barbo, ex-Sen. Victor S. Ziga, Councilor Raul R. Corro, lawyers Benjamin V. Cabochan, Luciano S. Borja, Salvador B. Lao, Reginaldo A. Oben, Beth O. de Villa, Cecilio V. Suarez Jr., Rolando A. Lamson, Arsenia V. Lao and Nilo T. Divina, and Rosalou S. Lamson. For inquiries, call 631-2801 or 631-2852.

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SMART BROADBANDS GAWAD KALINGA

OCTOBER 2007/ MANILA As part of its continuing support to the Gawad Kalinga (GK) Foundation, leading wireless services provider Smart Communications, Inc. (SMART) jumpstarted the Broadbanding Gawad Kalinga Communities project during the recently concluded GK1World Expo.

GK communities in various parts of the country will soon have Internet access. In the next few weeks, the 14 regional centers of Gawad Kalinga will be connected to its head office in Mandaluyong via Smart Bro, the wireless broadband Internet service of SMART subsidiary Smart Broadband, Inc.

'With GK communities broadbanded, it becomes easier for them to connect to each other, to their partners, volunteers here and overseas. This is bayanihan online." said SMART president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno. SMART is optimistic that the move to broadband GK communities will open windows of opportunities. SMART has already empowered volunteers and communities by providing broadband Internet access in major GK activities.

Most recently, SMART provided Internet access to volunteers of the GK house build in Trece Martires, Cavite. Volunteers were able to check their emails and browse the Internet. At the same time, Gawad Kalinga executive director Luis Oquiñena and Bayanihan Dancers representative Inda Gage had an online 'kumustahan" through a videoconference powered by Smart Bro. Volunteers at the GK head office in Mandaluyong were able to view the house build activities and to cheer the volunteers at the Trece Martires site.

Live Broadcast GK 1MB Rally
Last June, SMART made a live broadcast of the GK1MB Rally at the Araneta Coliseum using SMART's broadband and 3G facilities. GK communities in other parts of the country and in the United States, Canada and Australia witnessed the four-hour program that featured speeches from GK personalities led by Tony Meloto in real-time on their PCs and SMART 3G handsets.

They also enjoyed the production numbers of actor-comedian Epi Quizon, Fil-Am international recording artist Billy Crawford, comedian Rex Navarete and reggae band Brown Man Revival.

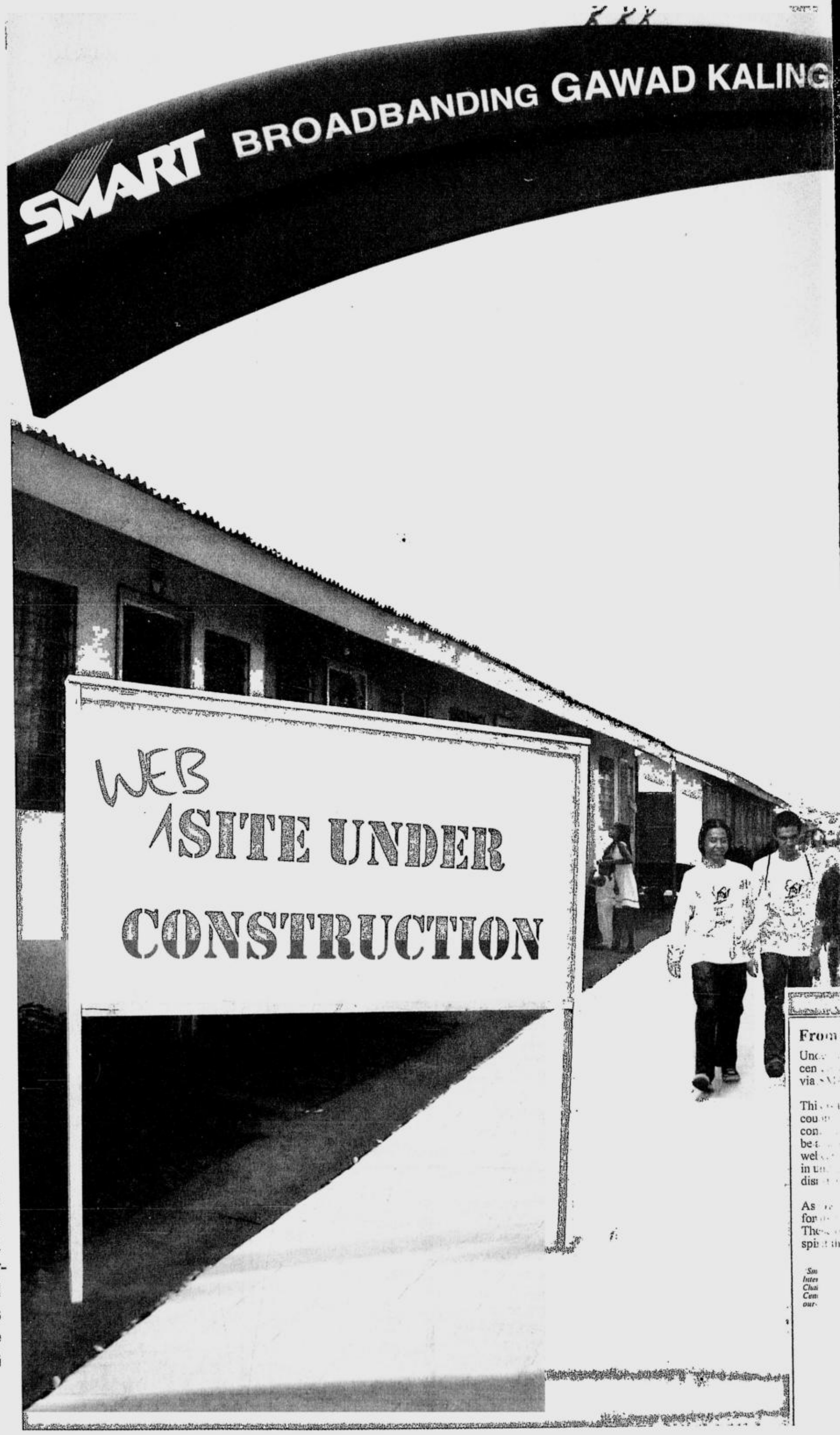
Broadbanding GK Bayani Challenge and GK House Build
Using Smart Bro and Smart 3G facilities, photos and video clips of the GK Bayani Challenge taken by GK volunteers in Naga last April were immediately uploaded on site via the Multiply website. This enabled those in Metro Manila and even abroad to watch what went on via the Internet.

SMART also provided Internet access to house build volunteers during the GK1MB Bayani Challenge held simultaneously in eight sites across Bicol region. This was made possible using Smart Bro and PLDT WeRoam.

During the five-day build, volunteers uploaded pictures and videos in the Internet, and kept in touch via e-mail with their friends and loved ones.

At the GK Bayani Challenge in Naga last April, SMART made a whole-day live broadcast of the Youth for Christ conference using Smart Bro and Smart 3G facilities. SMART subscribers with 3G handsets were also able to watch via video streaming, everything that was happening on their mobile phones real time. This included the Rocksteady band's concert.

GK1MB online registration
In support of the GK1MB campaign -"GK Isang Milyong Bayani," a campaign aiming to mobilize one million volunteers



to support the organization's GK777 goal of building 700,000 houses for homeless Filipino families in 7,000 communities in seven years - online registration was done by accessing the GK volunteers' website hosted by SMART.

At the GK1MB Bayani Challenge and the 14th Youth for Christ (YFC) International Leaders Congress in Naga City, SMART set up computers with wireless Internet access. This was used for the online registration of GK volunteers at the eight build sites during the five-day Bayani Challenge from April 9 to 13, and at the Naga stadium during the International Leaders Congress from April 13 to 14.

GK Registration via text

Participation in Gawad Kalinga can also be done via text. SMART subscribers simply key in GK<space>REG<space> NAME/ADDRESS/BDAY(mm ddyy) and send the information to 71745 (717GK). For example, type GK REG JUAN DELA CRUZ/123 SANTOS ST QUEZON CITY/012176, then send to 71745 (717GK). Non-Smart subscribers may send the same information to 2861.

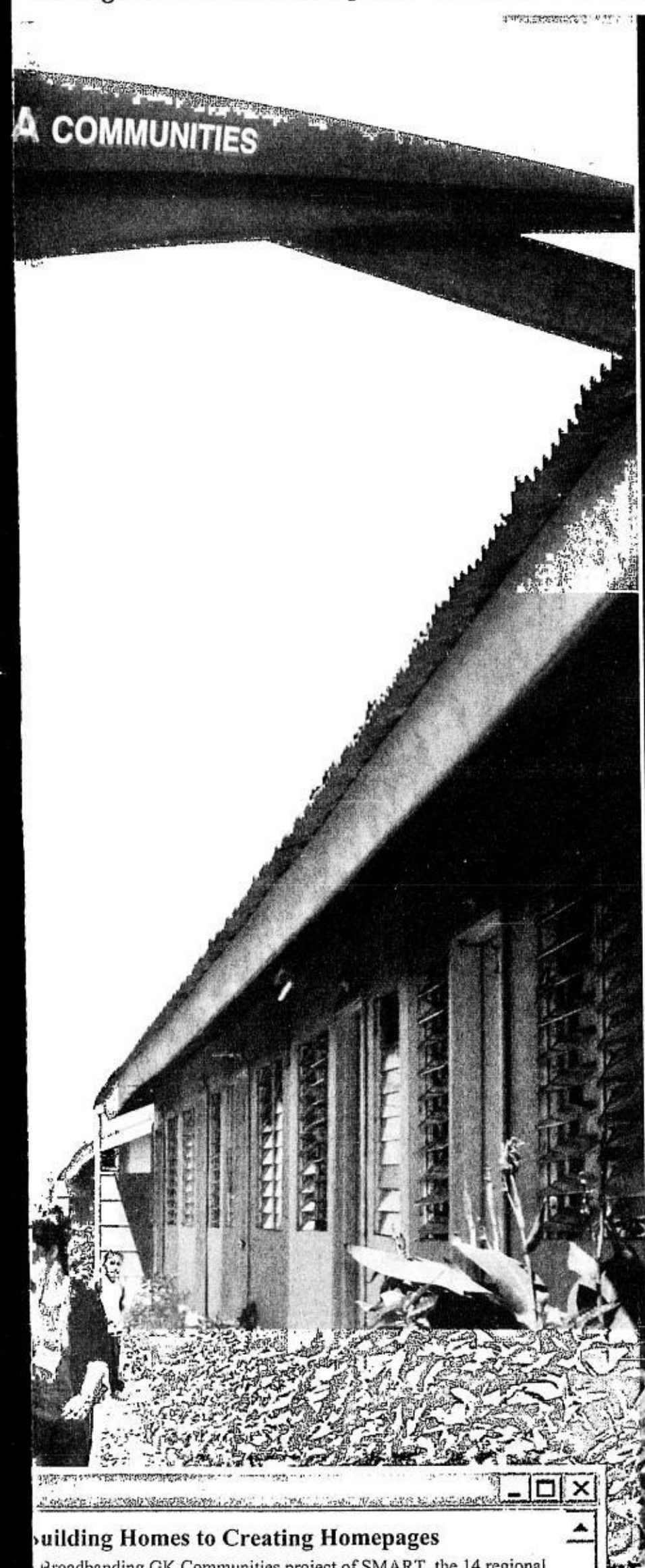
All successful registrants will be included in GK's text updates. They will be charged P2.50 for all keywords sent to 286 and for updates received. To stop receiving updates, they may key in GK1MB OFF and send to 286. To begin receiving updates again from GK, text GK1MB ON and send to 286 for SMART, 2861 for non-SMART subscribers.

"SMART has been partners with GK since 2003 when it first adopted a community in Baseco Compound, Tondo. Together with PLDT and PLDT-SMART Foundation, the group has adopted seven PLDT-SMART Amazing GK Villages nationwide. SMART is now harnessing its vast array of resources to provide a sophisticated ID system, online registration, web hosting, wireless Internet access, and live video streaming and broadcast. In the spirit of Gawad Kalinga's "bayanihan", we hope to be heroes in our way, not just by building houses, but also by providing consistent, relevant and innovative services to the Gawad Kalinga Foundation. Through these, GK will be able to reach out to more people not only in the Philippines, but also around the world," said Napoleon L. Nazareno, President and CEO of SMART.

GK Builder, Tony Meloto said, "Over 300 major corporations are now partners of GK. And we thank SMART for being one of our first and steady partners. They share our vision that by year 2010, we will have 7,000 communities. And with GK communities soon to be connected to the rest of the world, new opportunities will arise for our countrymen. Dahil dito, kami sa Gawad Kalinga ay natutuwang ipagpatuloy ang pakikipagbayanihan sa SMART."

PLDT, SMART and the PLDT-SMART Foundation have committed to fund seven GK villages nationwide and provide livelihood opportunities for the beneficiaries: Baseco Compound, Tondo, Manila, for urban poor fire victims; General Nakar, Quezon province, for landslide and flood victims; Camp Abubakar, Barira, Maguindanao province, for members of the Iranun tribe who lost their homes during the 'all out war' in 2000; Talamban, Cebu City, Cebu, for informal settlers; Arevalo, Iloilo City, Iloilo, for street children and their families; Fort Magsaysay, Laur, Nueva Ecija, for families of soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; and St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, for the mudslide victims.

PLDT, SMART and the PLDT-SMART Foundation will continue to support GK's goal of building 700,000 houses in 7,000 communities in seven years (GK777), or by 2010.



uilding Homes to Creating Homepages

Broadbanding GK Communities project of SMART, the 14 regional Gawad Kalinga will be connected to its head office in Mandaluyong T's wireless broadband service, Smart Bro.

initial phase of a project to connect GK communities all over the each other and to the world. Linked through high-speed Internet, these ies will have access to online information and education services and communicate with their partners here and abroad through e-mail, chat, d other broadband services. Eventually, this will assist GK communities ing various self-help projects including education and health programs, eparedness and livelihood projects.

ages become connected, the word "home" takes a new meaning lents as they create home pages and open windows of opportunities. ne communities will overcome barriers and strengthen the bayanihan s Gawad Kalinga.

broadbanding" GK by providing high-speed n their major activities such as the Bayani e and Naga, and the GK1MB Rally in Araneta forts to connect GK communities deepens with the growing One World of GK."

Rolando G. Peña
Head, Network Services Division, SMART
President, Smart Broadband, Inc.

"With this partnership with Smart, we get real time interaction among our GK communities. That's what GK is all about -- building relationships."

Luis Oquiñena
Executive Director, Gawad Kalinga

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A Partnership Built on a Strong Foundation

"As GK communities become connected to the rest of the world, new opportunities will arise for our countrymen. Dahil dito, kami sa Gawad Kalinga ay natutuwang ipagpatuloy ang pakikipagbayanihan sa SMART."

Tony Meloto, GK Builder

"With GK communities broadbanded, it becomes easier for them to connect to each other, to their partners, volunteers here and overseas. This is *bayanihan* online."

Napoleon L. Nazareno, President & CEO, PLDT and SMART

QUEZON CITY

People from all over the world witnessed the live broadcast of the GK1MB Rally over the Internet using Smart Bro and Smart 3G technology.

LEYTE

SMART first installed broadband connection at the Bayani Challenge house build project in Southern Leyte which lasted for five full days. This allowed builders to send photos and interact with people online.

NAGA CITY

Due to the success of the Leyte broadbanding project, the same initiative was also done at the Bayani Challenge in Naga City, Camarines Sur but bigger in scale. The Albay, Marinduque and Sorosogon sites were all provided with high-speed Internet connection.

CAVITE

During the Trece Martires, Cavite house build, videoconferencing was used by GK Executive Director Luis Oquiñena and Bayanihan Dancers representative Inda Gage in their "kamustahan" session with the volunteers.

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OPINION

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Divided nation

EDITORIAL

THE MAXIMUM POINT OF UNITY WAS REACHED when Joseph Estrada was convicted by the Sandiganbayan. No Southeast Asian country had ever done that; very few other countries have managed something similar. Instead of erupting in civil disturbance, the public accepted the verdict of the court and acknowledged the weight of the evidence. With the overwhelming majority of Filipinos accepting the judgment, it seemed the nation was poised to achieve closure to the great divisions of 2001.

But two people were unhappy with the verdict. And they decided their dissatisfaction should trump the national consensus. Those two people were President Macapagal-Arroyo and her predecessor, Joseph Estrada. He could never face the consequences of his actions and she never was interested in having him suffer the consequences of his betrayal of public trust, beyond her using it as an excuse to seize power.

This is why from the moment she took office, the President preferred to offer Estrada exile abroad rather than subject him to a trial. This is why long ago, her preferred solution was to grant a pardon, so that Estrada would be forced to recognize her legitimacy, or at the very least admit that her power over him was, in a sense, absolute. The problem was that Estrada preferred to fight it out in court. In the end, however, she wore him down. He decided he loved his own freedom more than he relished his role as the Old Pretender at Tanay.

Both decided that the real rule of law is that those with power can bend the law; and the ancient Golden Rule: whoever has the gold, makes the rules.

In a rare moment of introspection and honesty, the President said, in 2002, that she realized she was the cause of continued divisions in our society. Edsa II in January 2001 had almost immediately failed to meet public expectations of a more professional, honest and compassionate government. The revolt of May 2001 proved that Estrada enjoyed the affections of a constituency that had allowed him to fall, but wanted him treated with kid gloves. And yet those who rallied for him were violently dispersed while their leaders watched it all on TV from the safety of the mansions to which they had fled after they had made their incendiary speeches.

But in any case, who had the real means, motive and opportunity to frustrate justice? Only two people had them.

We all know the story of the scorpion and the frog. The scorpion begged for a ride across a river on the frog's back; and against its better judgment, the frog decided to give the scorpion a lift. Only for the scorpion to end up stinging the frog. As they both sank to their death, the scorpion philosophically explained why he bit the frog: "It's in my nature."

The President was being true to form—true to her nature—when she showed that her fundamental attitude to justice was to blunt its effects, for her and for her predecessor's sake—and we must add—in as sneaky a way as possible. For she could have resisted pressure to have Estrada arrested, and insisted that he be left alone to live out a sybaritic retirement untroubled by the law, if she really felt it was in the national interest. Instead, she began a long and essentially futile process of having him arrested, detained and subjected to a trial she all along intended would never achieve its purpose.

Estrada can even be excused for throwing in the towel, and refusing to take on the role of a martyr by actually enduring New Bilibid. He was being consistent in denying the system the satisfaction of proving his guilt beyond any shadow of doubt. He miscalculated and he lost his gamble; so he has decided to cut his losses and get out of jail.

So we are where we are: the wounds of 2001 have been opened anew, but with a difference. In 2001, the nation toppled Estrada and his fall proved beyond all doubt that even his supporters had lost their faith in him. Today, it's People of the Philippines versus Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Joseph Estrada. He loves himself more than he loves the supporters who faced the riot police on his behalf. She loves power more than the principles a nation embraced—the very same principles that toppled her predecessor. Both have come to terms with each other and the country has turned its back on them.

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An impious forgiveness

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

JOSEPH ESTRADA WAS ON SEPT. 12, 2007 convicted of plunder and sentenced to *reclusion perpetua* by the Sandiganbayan. He called it a kangaroo court. President Macapagal-Arroyo offered him a pardon that he grandly rejected, but now he is singing a different tune. Joseph Estrada is no longer a convicted felon but a free man.

On Oct. 25, Estrada's horrendous crime was erased and his desperate prayer was answered not by a merciful God but by influences far from divine. Malacañang is not redolent with the winds of Heaven but reeks with the stench of Hades.

Ignoring the 212-page decision of the Sandiganbayan after a six-year trial checkered with countless dilatory motions to postpone his inevitable conviction, President Arroyo absolved Erap from his heinous crime for which he had earned, this time deservedly, the penalty of 40 years in prison.

Ignoring his impeachment trial in the Senate where irrefutable evidence against him was blocked by the Craven Eleven but was judiciously accepted by Edsa 2, President Arroyo granted him a pardon condoning all his sins.

Ignoring the protests of millions of citizens who believe that Estrada should be punished like every convicted criminal regardless of his station in life or his status as a public official, President Arroyo instead anointed his odious offense with her impious forgiveness.

President Fidel V. Ramos spoke indignantly against the pardon, predicting dire consequences for GMA. Even Erap's loyal supporters were secretly offended by the insupportable clemency that was actually a political accommodation.

There was that curious report sometime ago of a man who was convicted of 27 counts of graft by the Sandiganbayan that sentenced him to a total of 203 years in prison. He escaped and was in hiding for eight years until he suddenly surfaced to serve his evaded sentence. But he did not have to stay a single day in jail. It appeared that President Arroyo had pardoned him while he was a fugitive from the law he had flouted.

> In offering him no less than an absolute pardon, does President Arroyo consider Erap superior to all other convicts?

Unbelievable? Stranger things have happened, like Joc-Joc Bolante and the NBN deal, and there's talk also of releasing Romeo Jalosjos.

The exercise of executive clemency cannot normally be reviewed by the courts beyond the constitutional requirement that pardon cannot be granted before final conviction and amnesty without the concurrence of Congress. Nevertheless, can the President's improvidence, as in that above case and more so in the Estrada pardon, be challenged as an abuse of discretion that may now be examined under the Constitution?

In pardoning Estrada, has President Arroyo not nullified the rule that presidential immunity is not a shield against criminal prosecution, especially for the horrendous offense of plunder?

In offering him no less than an absolute pardon, does President Arroyo consider Erap superior to all other convicts under the same sentence of *reclusion perpetua* because he is, unlike then, a former President of the Philippines?

Would another person similarly sentenced for the same offense of plunder also expect an absolute pardon although he has never been a President of the Philippines?

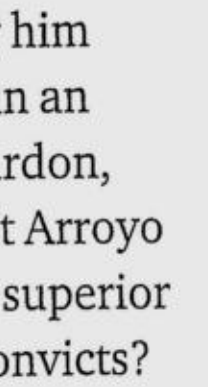
More to the point, would all former Presidents of the Philippines, including Ms Arroyo in time, be entitled to the same favoritism for their similar or even more avaricious plunder committed within the protective premises of Malacañang?

Is President Arroyo establishing precedent for the benefit of retired Presidents of the Philippines who may be convicted of plunder like former President Estrada?

To justify Estrada's pardon, Malacañang is saying it is a step toward national reconciliation. This is hogwash beneath contempt. The nation is already reconciled in despising President Arroyo. And the reinvention of Estrada is a reward for criminality, a preference for dishonesty over integrity, a disavowal of virtue in all public officials, especially the President of the Philippines. Ms Arroyo has committed still another abuse dishonoring her office.

Who's right?

MOMENTS



Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A WIFE WHO made a frantic call to her husband and said: "Honey, I found out that our maid left this morning, with my favorite towel."

"Which one?" the husband asked.

"The one we took from the hotel where we stayed last weekend, remember?"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 18, 9-14) Jesus warns us against self-righteousness. People who think of themselves as better or holier than others need to work on Humility. The truth of the matter is, we are all members of the human race; and the bottom line is, we are all sinners in need of God's mercy and redemption.

* * *

Here is another story about self-righteousness, which I would like to share. A man attending a Mass claimed he was so shocked when the man in front of him lighted a cigarette during the homily, so much so that he almost dropped the beer bottle he was drinking from!

It happens that we are scandalized when others do bad things, but it can also happen that we are doubtful or unbelieving when others do good things. In both instances, knowingly or unknowingly, we are guilty of self-righteousness.

* * *

It is wrong to think that going to heaven is a race or a contest. It is doubly wrong for anyone to think that going to heaven is the exclusive right of the righteous. The truth of the matter is that none of us deserves heaven, and that we cannot appropriate heaven with our good deeds. If on earth we can bribe our way through almost anything, not so in heaven. We cannot buy heaven, we cannot claim heaven. What then is the ticket to heaven? Humility. Let us all do our very best, and trust with all Humility in God's mercy and love.

* * *

If you look at the lives of the saints, there are no proud saints. Proud and self-sufficient people cannot qualify for the kingdom of God precisely because they are too proud to accept their faults and admit their brokenness. So, along with Humility, the other key we all need in our spiritual life is Honesty. With Humility and Honesty, one can't go wrong.

* * *

When was the last time you made a good confession? When was the last time you said to God in all Honesty and with all Humility: "Lord, I am really sorry, have mercy on me, a sinner"? If you have not done that for a long time now, then maybe it is time to do just that, and acknowledge your need for God.

There are two kinds of people who refuse to go back to God in repentance: Those who think of themselves as hopeless sinners and unworthy of God's forgiveness; and those who think of themselves as righteous who don't need God's forgiveness. Be more alarmed of the latter.

* * *

All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day remind us of eternity. Some of us get so engrossed with worldly things we forget that eternity is waiting. We all will leave this world someday. We all will go. But, where are we going? From God we came, to God we will go back. Make sure as you journey on, make doubly sure, that to God is where you are heading.

* * *

Perhaps if you and I weren't so self-righteous, we could have been more loving of those who have gone ahead of us. Perhaps we could have been more listening, more understanding, more forgiving of them. Let us not wait for death to settle our quarrels and sins. Let us not give up our efforts to let people know they are appreciated and loved while they are still living. And let us not stop trying to change our ways that need conversion and our relationships that need healing.

There will be a big turnout of people at the cemetery to visit their dead in the next few days. If only those visits were made when the dead were still alive, if only those flowers were given when the dead could yet respond with so much delight, if only those candles were lit when the dead were not yet inside their tombs. At the end, may we not have too many regrets that we loved too little, too late in life.

* * *

Allow me to share once more this beautiful poem I read somewhere, sometime ago. It is titled "One Little Rose."

I'd rather have one little rose from a friend than to have the choicest flowers when life has come to an end;

I'd rather hear a pleasant word in kindness said to me, than flattery when my heart is still and my life has ceased to be;

I'd rather see a loving smile from friends whom I know are true, than tears shed around my casket when this world I bid 'Adieu';

So, bring me all your flowers today, whether pink, or white or red; I'd rather have one blossom now, than a truck load when I'm dead."

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to focus on Your righteousness, not on my own righteousness or on others' righteousness. Amen.

Writ of Amparo vs AO 197

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

LAST WEDNESDAY, OCT. 24, THE WORLD CELEbrated the birthday of the United Nations. The Supreme Court commemorated the occasion by giving birth to the new "Rule on the Writ of Amparo" that was specially crafted, in the words of the Court, "to manifest a strong affirmation of our commitment towards the internationalization of human rights."

Military counterattack. While the rule became effective on Oct. 24, it was actually promulgated on Sept. 25. For her part, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued on the same day, Sept. 25, Administrative Order 197 ordering the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines "to draft legislation . . . for safeguards against disclosure of military secrets and undue interference in military operations inimical to national security."

Obviously, AO 197 is a military counterattack to outflank and overwhelm the new writ. Consider that amparo was expressly designed to prevent "extralegal killings and enforced disappearances" of private citizens, and, if already committed, to require the perpetrators—usually members of the military and the police—to account for the killings or disappearances.

Extralegal killings are defined by the Court as "those committed without due process of law" including "the illegal taking of life regardless of the motive, summary and arbitrary executions, 'salvagings' even of suspected criminals, and threats to take the life of persons who are openly critical of erring government officials and the like."

On the other hand, "enforced disappearances," according to the tribunal, have "the following characteristics: an arrest, detention or abduction of a person by a government official or organized groups or private individuals acting with the direct or indirect acquiescence of the government; the refusal of the State to disclose the fate or whereabouts of the person concerned; or a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty which places such persons outside the protection of the law."

Weapon against military abuses. Stripped of legalese, amparo's primary purpose is to vindicate human rights violations committed by law enforcement agents against critics of the government and perceived "enemies of the State."

While AO 197 merely directs the drafting of legislation, it is clear that even prior to the enactment of such proposed law, the President—to prevent unwelcome judicial inquiries—intends to claim her "executive privilege" when AFP officers are served by the courts with the amparo writ.

Coverage of executive privilege. True, "Senate vs Ermita" (April 20, 2006) tackled executive privilege in relation to a Senate investigation, but it included court proceedings within the coverage of the privilege. Written by Justice Conchita Carpio Morales, the unanimous decision said that executive privilege "is the power of the Government to withhold information from **the public, the courts and the Congress** . . . in relation to certain types of information of a sensitive character," like military secrets.

"Senate vs Ermita" outlined how the privilege could be invoked. For instance, the invitation or subpoena issued by the legislature should state the general nature of the investigation, the probable questions to be asked, etc. However, there were no similar details on how the privilege could be used in court proceedings.

To reiterate, AO 197 did not invoke executive privilege directly. It spoke of crafting legislation to safeguard military secrets and operations. In other words, the President is asking Congress for a law that can adulterate or shrivel "Senate vs Ermita" by redefining or expanding the scope of the privilege.

Battle royale. The 1987 Constitution did not expressly provide for the writ of amparo. In issuing the rule, the Supreme Court merely invoked its constitutional prerogative "to promulgate rules concerning the protection and enforcement of constitutional rights" which, however, are subject to the caveat that "such rules . . . shall not diminish, increase or modify substantive rights."

Amparo is the libertarian answer to the rampant human rights violations in the present regime. It was proudly approved by the Supreme Court, in the words of Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno, to "revive our righteous indignation and spur our united search for the elusive solution to this pestering problem."

Does Congress have the power to defang the new rule on amparo? In "Echagaray vs Secretary of Justice" (Jan. 19, 1999), the Supreme Court flatly said No. "The 1987 Constitution took away the power of Congress to repeal, alter or supplement rules concerning pleading, practice and procedure." But this holding may not apply if it can be shown that the rule impinged on "substantive rights" which only the legislature can create or change.

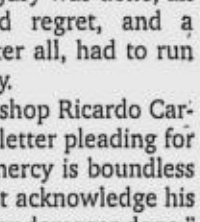
"Writ of Amparo vs Administrative Order 197." The battle could be waged in Congress, in the judiciary, in media and, inevitably, in the court of public opinion. On Oct. 24, the very day the amparo rule took effect, the struggle was immediately ignited by the filing in the Supreme Court of a petition for the writ on behalf of University of the Philippines students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño, who were allegedly kidnapped by the military.

Who will blink in this forthcoming battle royale: GMA who is determined to shield her loyal military subalterns, or the Supreme Court that is passionate to protect the paramount "right to life, liberty and security"? *Abangan!*

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Protest to power



REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS SPOKEN.

"Let us now all pray, reflect and join hands to make the Estrada pardon a powerful force for righteousness, compassion, healing, national stability and advancement. The people deserve peace, order and political and economic stability. We have been through many upheavals. The people deserve a stable government and economic progress. That is what they are getting now," Ms Arroyo said.

The decision to grant former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada pardon was a move that caused Ms Arroyo great agony for all of 30 minutes. In the end, she looked to the Bible for inspiration. Perhaps the President wandered into Matthew's parable of the unmerciful servant—the luckless man who was forgiven and yet chose not to forgive. And so his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart." And it would be reasonable to see the logic of the President's action—after all, with an administration knee-deep in corruption scandals, bribery charges, accusations of cheating and human rights violations, forgiving a fellow culprit sets a precedent for future forgiveness.

Yet forgiveness is an interesting thing, as Bishop Joseph Butler says, a "forswearing of resentment," a "resolute overcoming of anger and hatred." It requires, among other things, repentance—an admission that injury was done, an acknowledgement of responsibility and regret, and a promise of change. The prodigal son, after all, had to run home to throw himself at his father's mercy.

Even Estrada's champion, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, who signature is affixed to a letter pleading for his pardon, preaches that while "God's mercy is boundless for repentant sinners," Estrada "must first acknowledge his sins, seek forgiveness and make amends for damages done." Even by the standards of the Bible, by which Arroyo swears, Estrada's pardon falls flat.

There has been no attempt at repentance from Estrada. Just yesterday, Estrada announced to a 3,000-strong in San Juan that he has never been corrupt, in spite of the Sandiganbayan decision that convicted him of plunder beyond reasonable doubt. "The verdict of our people and history is far more important to me than [that of] any court of this land," he announced.

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said Estrada's acceptance of the pardon was tantamount to an admission of his being guilty of plunder. "I see it as a matter of semantics? In ordinary life, would you ask for pardon if you do not recognize your guilt?" she said.

But it isn't forgiveness Erap wants; it is freedom. That is what pardon is for him. Just last month, after the guilty verdict, he claimed that he was prepared to face the charges, and that "my personal freedom is no longer important." And yet today he is a free man. He withdrew his petition for reconsideration not because he repented, but because he wanted to be free. Before leaving his Tanay detention-home, Estrada said: "There is no substitute for freedom." And so he is back, and as Lanao del Norte Rep. Vicente Belmonte said, "Estrada can still be a kingmaker."

Yet even that bastion of Catholic morality, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, in a recent statement, asked where justice is in the pardon granted to Estrada, when so many with lesser crimes and less power breathe the stench of crowded jail cells. And this is why pardon, although within the President's power, is an insult to the Filipino people. The law exists to make possible the functioning of civilized life. That there are men who can rape 5-year-old girls in this country essentially means that left on its own, civilization isn't at all that civilized. It is the law that sets the most basic requirements of humanity, and it is the fear of punishment that enforces that law. Without punishment, laws essentially become toothless dragons, all sound and fury without the ability to deter or deny. So forgive, by all means, but punish too. As Thomas Hobbes says, it is the only way to keep civilization safe.

Estrada's pardon, no matter how many ways it is explained, is essentially the triumph of power and influence over law. There are still 70-year-old men in the city's jails. There are men whose mothers have died without seeing their sons. There are men who have stolen purses worth far less than one of Estrada's meals, but their punishments have no reprieves from magnanimous presidents. This is not what justice should be, power should be no reason for lady justice to flip up her blindfold. It sends out one message—impunity for those in power.

In the face of this mockery of forgiveness, there is a reason for resentment. According to sociologists Murphy and Hampton, the primary value defended by resentment is self-respect. A person who does not resent moral injuries done to him is almost necessarily a person lacking in self-respect. The land of the free has been forced to spread its legs for a mustached criminal with a pompadour, and then rewards that same man with a handshake and a kiss. So he walks away with a smirk, the same way so many of the men and women who violated the country have, so much so that rape is something we expect. So we rail at the pinpricks, condemn the Malu Fernandezes, petition the producers of "Desperate Housewives," in the hope that we can get some of that lost dignity. And that's well and good, it proves we're still alive—but are doctors and OFWs the only people we're willing to stand up for?

By all means, let us resent—resent the moral injury against the country, resent the arrogance that assumes we are so lacking in ego that we care nothing for our dignity. Resentment is both a protest against injustice and a defense of self-respect. We're the battered wives who take every blow and forgive the drunken louts who smile at us the next morning. We're the admiring crowd that steps aside for the tall woman with a thousand shoes. What Nietzsche says applies to the Filipino—here, forgiveness is a vice, not a virtue.

This pardon does not mean stability, or healing, or justice. It is Estrada's middle finger shoved up the country's collective consciousness, but it's happened so often that it feels almost normal.

* * *

For comments, just text: PM REBEL name, age, location, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. E-mail at rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

Ties and open doors

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TEL AVIV—MAX WEISSLER WAS JUST 4 YEARS old when his parents, who were German Jews, heard about the "open door" policy of the Philippine government. The policy, articulated and promoted by then President Manuel Quezon, was essentially to offer sanctuary to Jews fleeing Nazi persecution in Europe. The Weisslers decided to take the chance to escape the encroaching Nazis and fled to Russia where they boarded the Trans-Siberian Railway, crossing into China, from where they made their way to Manila.

Two years later, the Japanese invaded the Philippines. But, being officially German citizens, the Weisslers were not incarcerated, unlike Americans and other Westerners. "In fact, Max says the Japanese treated the Jews in the Philippines rather well," recalled Max's wife Esther. Growing up in post-war Manila, Max managed to learn Tagalog, snatches of which he showed off at a cocktail party hosted by the Philippine Embassy for our group.

After the war, the Weisslers migrated to the United States, and when he reached adulthood, Max decided to join the military, serving in the Korean War. He met Esther in Tokyo. Asked what she was doing there, Esther said jokingly: "I was looking for a nice Jewish boy."

Esther is herself a "sabra," as native-born Israelis call themselves. And when she and Max married, they moved to Israel where they raised a family.

Soon, Max's footprints will be etched on the marble floor of a monument that will rise in the Holocaust Memorial Park in the Israeli city of Rishon LeZion. Called "Open Doors," the monument, designed by Filipino artist June Yee, was the brainchild of the late Ambassador to Israel Tony Modena and is the fruit of collaboration among the Philippine government, the "Manilaners" (as the Jews who fled to Manila call themselves) and the local government of Rishon LeZion.

Together with the footprints of another Manilaner, George Lowenstein, and of Doryliz Goffer, a young Filipino-Israeli, Max's footprints will be shown "entering" the symbolic doors, one foot outside, the other inside. Indeed, the monument, scheduled for inauguration in early December, will memorialize not just the "open door" policy, but also the continuing relations between Filipinos and Israelis. Both countries also celebrate this year 50 years of diplomatic relations.

* * *

THESE days, Filipino-Israeli ties are manifested mainly through the approximately 31,000 Filipinos working and living in Israel, most of them employed as caregivers, and most of them women.

On the fourth day of our visit, we were billeted for the night at the Kibbutz Lavi Guest House, founded by a group of conservative Jews who took advantage of the kibbutz's proximity to tourist sites to build facilities for tourists. As we waited at the lobby before dinner, we bumped into three young women animatedly talking in Filipino among themselves. They turned out to be caregivers, employed by the kibbutz to look after their older members, all of them Holocaust survivors.

Israelis we met on this trip testified to the Filipinas' reputation. Tzippi Barnea, a coordinator with the American Jewish Committee, brightened up when I mentioned the Filipina caregivers. "One of them looks after my mother," she confided, "and I tell you, no one else could have looked after her with so much patience and gentleness."

While we didn't catch the Filipino workers on their days off, Chargé d'Affaires Gilbert Asuque told us that they can be found in the Carmel Market area in this city, where most of them have taken flats near each other, and the new central bus station, Tachana Merkazit. Some 100 Filipinos can also be found in Bethlehem, West Bank and other areas in Palestine, all of them married to Palestinians.

In 2004, with the outbreak of the *intifadah*, characterized by random "suicide bombings" in Tel Aviv and other urban centers, the Philippine Embassy organized a text brigade to monitor Filipinos in a time of great uncertainty. It is still in place today for use in emergencies and to inform the community about special events.

* * *

IT seems that in large part, Philippine foreign policy in the Middle East is dictated by the presence of migrant workers in the various countries in the region.

Agreements and policies crafted in Manila could mean new jobs or rights guarantees for our workers. On the other hand, conflicts between the antagonistic governments and peoples could threaten not just jobs for Filipinos, but even their very lives.

It would thus be also in our best interest to encourage peaceful overtures between and among Israel and other Arab nations. Dr. Eran Lerman, director of the AJC Israel office and a former intelligence officer, spoke with much optimism of growing economic cooperation between neighboring countries like Jordan, Egypt and Syria, and even with Arab communities in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. But Khaled Abu Toameh, an Arab Israeli journalist who writes for the Jerusalem Post, believes the parties in the planned "Annapolis Summit" are simply being pressured to take part in a peace parley. "I think both sides aren't ready for it," he said.

But memories and past hurts and tragedies can get in the way of reconciliation. We had a most interesting dialogue at Kibbutz Levy, with Dina Jehuda, Gilad Levy and Dr. Mordechai Gilo, representing three different perspectives on peace, cross-cultural understanding and biases. Funnily enough, the session soon turned into a heated discussion as well on the Mindanao conflict and Philippine colonial history. Which just goes to show, I suppose, that Israel and the Philippines have much more in common than we thought.

Why Turkey's Army will stay home

WORLD VIEW

Ian Bremmer

JUST WHEN THE SMOKE FROM TURKEY'S domestic political conflicts of the past year had begun to clear, another deadly attack by Kurdish separatists on Turkish soldiers has the government threatening military attacks inside northern Iraq. That prospect raises risks for Turkey, Iraq, and the United States. But there are reasons to doubt that the situation is as dangerous as recent headlines suggest.

Turkey accuses Iraqi Kurds of harboring between 3,000 and 3,500 of Turkey's most active Kurdish militants—the PKK separatist guerrillas who are blamed for the deaths of 80 Turkish soldiers so far this year. The trouble reached the boiling point on Oct. 7, when Kurdish fighters killed 13 Turkish soldiers near Turkey's border with Iraq.

The Turkish public has demanded action, and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government has responded. On Oct. 17, despite pleas for patience and restraint from Iraq and the United States, Turkish lawmakers voted 507-19 to authorize Erdogan to order cross-border military strikes into Iraq at any time over the next year.

Erdogan has sent Iraqi Kurds a forceful message. But, for several reasons, the Turkish military is likely to limit its operations to small-scale incursions and air strikes on specific targets rather than launch an all-out war.

First, the Turkish military has no interest in embracing the risks that come with involvement in Iraq's sectarian strife. A full-scale invasion might well provoke Iraq's own Kurdish guerrillas into a prolonged and bloody battle with Turkish forces that can only undermine support for Erdogan's government at home and abroad.

Second, Turkey's government hopes to keep the country's bid to join the European Union moving forward. An invasion of Iraq would bring that process to a grinding halt. EU Foreign Policy chief Javier Solana has made plain that Europe strongly opposes any large-scale Turkish military operation in Iraq.

Third, Turkey is well aware that an all-out attack inside Iraq is exactly what Turkey's Kurdish separatists want. What better way to damage Turkey than to pull its military into conflict with Iraq, the United States, and the European Union? Erdogan has no intention of being drawn into that trap.

With all that in mind, this latest move by Turkey's parliament should be seen more as an ultimatum to Iraq's Kurdish Regional Government to expel the Turkish Kurds and an attempt to persuade the United States to use its considerable influence there. That's hardball politics, not a declaration of war.

The parliamentary authorization itself is carefully worded to underline Turkey's limited aims. It stresses that Turkey's military has no intention of occupying Iraqi territory or threatening Iraqi Kurds or their oil infrastructure. An attack would certainly make Iraq's Kurdish provinces less appealing for foreign investors. But Turkey has no reason to attack the assets of foreign oil companies.

Iraq's central government is aware of the risks, as well, and is likely to exercise maximum restraint. A limited Turkish strike into northern Iraq would probably elicit little reaction beyond public condemnation and rhetorical assertions of Iraqi sovereignty.

Threats to Iraq's oil infrastructure around the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk and other territory under the Kurdish Regional Government's control are minimal. Turkey's government knows that any move to shut down the 600-mile pipeline from Kirkuk to Turkey's Mediterranean port at Ceyhan would have little near-term impact, since most of Iraq's oil exports flow from the south, hundreds of miles from the country's border with Turkey.

Furthermore, the Turkish military can increase the pressure on Iraqi Kurds with far less drastic measures. It can close the two countries' principal border crossing, an important route for food, fuel and other goods headed for Iraqi Kurds. It could also cut exports of electricity to northern Iraq.

Still, even small-scale military operations would generate risk. If the PKK is able to launch a major attack on troops or civilians inside Turkey, the public outcry might leave Erdogan with little choice but to up the ante.

The issue is complicated further by Turkey's refusal to negotiate directly with the Kurdish Regional Government in northern Iraq. Such talks, Turkey fears, would offer tacit acknowledgement that Iraqi Kurds have won a degree of autonomy from Baghdad. That's a bridge too far for Turkey's nationalists and its military.

There are risks for Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al Maliki as well, because Turkish military strikes on Iraq's northern provinces could undermine the Kurdish support on which his government increasingly depends. Both Sunni Arabs and Kurds already resent al Maliki's mild reaction to Iran's recent shelling of Iraqi territory -- an attempt to strike at Iranian Kurdish militants fleeing across its border with Iraq.

There are also risks for the United States. Most supplies headed for US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan move through the Incirlik airbase in Turkey. With the threat that the US House of Representatives will approve a resolution that accuses Turks of genocide against ethic Armenians nine decades ago, this is a particularly inopportune moment for the two countries to be at odds over Iraq.

But, worst-case scenarios aside, a Turkish invasion of northern Iraq can only serve the interests of Turkey's Kurdish separatists. That's why cooler heads are likely to prevail. Limited cross-border operations are increasingly likely. A war between Turkey and Iraqi Kurds is not. ***Project Syndicate***

Ian Bremmer is president of Eurasia Group, the global political risk consultancy, and author of "The J Curve: A New Way to Understand Why Nations Rise and Fall."

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Burma crisis: Issues and possibilities

THE GLOBAL CONDEMNATION OF THE BRUTAL CRACKDOWN ON BUDDHIST monks and pro-democracy activists has not loosened the military junta's grip on power in Burma.

Despite the fresh sanctions imposed by the European Union, the United States and Japan, the generals are far from granting the demands of the tens of thousands of protesters who marched through Rangoon and other cities in Burma in August and September.

The protesters demanded the lowering of consumer prices, release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners, and national reconciliation.

Weeks after soldiers fired at marchers in Rangoon and descended on monasteries, the arrest of activists continued. The ruling junta acknowledged that 10 people were killed, but opposition groups in exile said that the death toll was much higher and that thousands of people were held in brutal conditions.

State media insisted that there were no political prisoners in the country and criticized a UN Security Council statement slamming the bloody crackdown.

How do you solve a problem like Burma? The dean of the Asian Center at the University of the Philippines has come up with several recommendations, including a multilateral effort demanding that the junta hold a dialogue with the opposition.

By Aileen S.P. Baviera

BURMA POSES A DIlemma for its neighboring countries.

On the one hand, the strategic value of its location and its oil and gas resources makes it very attractive for its neighbors, especially China and India.

On the other, its repressive regime is seen as a threat mainly to its own people, but this repression has led to spill-over effects, e.g. refugees in neighboring states and loss of credibility of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in its relations with Europe.

In the Burma policies of neighboring states, it is national interest—rather than values such as the promotion of democracy or human rights—that prevails. If we wish these neighbors to pressure or influence the junta toward democratic reform, we need to persuade them that democracy and human rights in Burma are in their national interest, too.

China's dilemma

China, perceived as Burma's key ally, has come under increasing international pressure to prevent further repression by the junta. China's interests in Burma include access to the Indian Ocean (it has helped Burma develop a naval base), oil and gas, an active border trade, and using Burma as a buffer against India. Through its influence over Burma, it also has a foothold in Asean. China is thus unlikely to antagonize the military junta.

Moreover, China consistently touts the principle of "noninterference in internal affairs" and holds respect for state sovereignty practically sacred, if only to protect itself against possible encroachments on sovereignty by greater powers. Thus, it will not be the first to intervene in Rangoon.

In addition, human rights and democracy are clearly not China's strong points. We remember that the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown shortly followed the 1988 Rangoon massacres. If China openly presses the Burma junta against violent suppression of protests, this may raise questions about the need to renounce its own crackdown on the 1989 Tiananmen dissent. This is something China's leaders are not prepared to do, as it may encourage other mass pro-democracy movements in China.

We should, however, avoid overestimating China's influence over Burma. After all, Burma has a long tradition of neutrality and isolationism since the 1950s, and in particular, resistance to Chinese interference, which it abandoned only after 1988 partly because of sanctions by the West.

Trade and investment

Given a chance, it is likely that the people of Burma may wish to return to this path of neutrality in contrast to alignment with big powers, as it is so crucial to their survival. Moreover, China is not its only significant or even major trade and investment partner (Singapore, Thailand, India, Japan also count, among others). ***See table.***

Indeed, China has provided the military regime with increasing assistance in transportation, energy, mining, military, industrial, cultural and other infrastructure, such that, if it so wanted, it is in a position to press the junta. However, Chinese weight alone will not be enough.

Finally, before the whole world demands that China put pressure on the Burmese junta (the same way it has been expected to influence the North Korean regime), we should stop and think that perhaps we should be careful of what we wish for. Do we really want China to become a power broker in Southeast Asia? What could be the long-term consequences of allowing it to become a guarantor of any country's sovereignty and security, or for that matter, any regime's legitimacy, in our part of the world?

Asean's dilemma

The decision by Asean to admit Burma as a member was in large part anchored on the vision of a united Southeast Asia, the need to counter growing Chinese influence over the regime, and the desire to keep the regime constructively engaged in the face of the policy of isolation and sanctions by the West and the United States.

However, the junta has shown itself resistant to any change urged by Asean, because it knows Asean countries themselves are not united on democracy and human rights, and many are still wedded to the noninterference principle.

Following the coup d'etat in Thailand that overthrew the Thaksin government, only Indonesia and the Philippines are seen as committed to human rights, but even in the Philippines this commitment on the part of the political elite is shaky.

We should remember that Thailand is also ruled by a military junta while Vietnam, Laos, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei are under different degrees of authoritarian rule.

Because most Asean governments would rather look at Burma as a market, an investment destination, or in terms of its strategic value, civil society organizations in the Asean region face the challenge of persuading their governments that genuine stability and prosperity in Burma can only come through political dialogue, and with the junta relaxing its grip on power. Singapore should be especially targeted because it is a major trade and investment partner and a major source of military and police assistance to the regime.

A GIANT poster of Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi is displayed on the façade of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. Burma's junta demanded on Oct. 21 that the detained democracy icon drop her support for sanctions on the country, one of conditions set by the regime for talks with the opposition leader. AFP

Sanctions

European Union
- Arms embargo
- Ban on nonhumanitarian aid
- Visa ban for senior regime officials and their families
- Freeze on assets held in Europe by people on the visa ban list
- Limited investment ban
- Embargo on the export of wood, gems and metals

United States
- Investment ban
- Import ban
- Blocking of property and property interests of Burma's senior officials
- Ban on exportation of financial services (insurance, banking services, loans, etc.)

Japan
- Cancellation of grants of about $4.7 million

Inquirer Research

Top 3 trading partners (2006)

Imports: $3.9 billion

China	34.0 percent
Thailand	21.4
Singapore	15.8

Exports: $ 4.4 billion

Thailand	49.0 percent
India	12.1
China	5.3

SOURCE: IHT/IMF

Charter

Another dimension of Asean affected by the crisis in Burma is its charter-drafting process. Among the hurdles here is the problem of ensuring the states' commitment to any new rules of the association. Questions have been raised as to whether member states found to be in violation can be sanctioned through suspension, expulsion, or other means.

The debate in the past centered around the expectation of some that Burma's military junta would continue to behave ignominiously as before, dismissive of international norms. The current crisis and Asean's inability to contribute to its peaceful resolution will only invite further skepticism about Asean by drawing attention to its being inutile in ensuring responsible and peaceful behavior by a member state, even with respect to its own people.

If agreement on a charter were to be announced in a regional atmosphere poisoned by the beating of monks and continuing arrests of peaceful demonstrators in a member country, Asean might indeed deservedly become a laughing stock.

Perhaps Asean should already consider the Burma crisis in relation to the timing of its announcement of its charter. Asean leaders could explore postponing the charter decision until the junta demonstrates a stronger commitment to political reform, and even explore using the charter issue to demonstrate to the junta the urgent need for measures to accommodate the legitimate democratic opposition. There is a precedent to such a postponement of a major Asean decision. The deferment of Cambodia's entry into Asean in 1997-98 was due to the internal disorder among its elite factions at the time.

India's dilemma

There has also been a lot of international pressure on India to withdraw its support for the Burmese junta. India feels the need to wield influence over the junta for one overriding purpose—not democracy or human rights—but to balance China's growing power. India also is very much interested in Burma's oil and gas resources. However, India should realize that for as long as the junta remains in power, China is bound to play an important role in propping it up.

Over the long term, a democratic Burma is much more likely to be friendly toward a democratic India. Therefore, the earlier democracy can be established in Burma, the better it will be for India.

US-EU-UN

As for the United States, Europe and the United Nations, their sanctions have failed to produce change just as Asean's so-called constructive engagement has failed.

Western sanctions may in fact have given China free rein over the junta as well as the Burmese economy, and there has been no lack of Asian or foreign companies seeking to fill the void.

The attempt to sanction the Burmese government through a UN Security Council resolution last January was also bound to fail. It was opposed by China and Russia because it yet again smacked of interventionism under yet another pretext of "threat to world security," when clearly and tragically the junta represents at most a threat to its own citizens.

After Iraq, we should not be surprised if countries this time demand incontrovertible proof to support threat claims by certain Western powers.

Human rights, democracy

Since geopolitical interests appear to take center stage in how most regional states view Burma, the challenge for democracy activists and advocates of human rights is how to persuade these players that democracy and human rights in Burma are in their interests, too.

For Asean, the argument has long been made that its credibility, unity and ability to progress together will depend on its success in becoming a cohesive, institutionalized, rules-based organization sharing a common vision and common principles.

While it is not for Asean or any other country to define Burma's political system, Asean's principles of peaceful settlement of disputes, consultation and consensus-building, reliance on dialogue and accommodation or harmonization of diverse interests, mutual respect, and its more recent commitment to social justice and the vision of a "caring society" can and should also very well guide state-society relations within individual member countries.

For China, continuous association with what may become a long, drawn-out repression and potential violence by the military junta could eventually cast a shadow over the democracy debate in China, bringing to a head as well the growing tensions between China's two faces: the China that is externally domineering and internally repressive toward its own people versus the China that is highly civilized, and a responsible and respected great power.

Moreover, like India, if China ends up on the wrong side of history should the pro-democracy forces in Burma ultimately prevail, then it stands to lose its influence over any new government in Rangoon.

What may be done?

Both Western sanctions and Asean constructive engagement have failed to reform Burma's military leaders. On the other hand, support by China, India and other governments as well as corporations have apparently helped sustain corruption and repression and are becoming a major source of embarrassment, what with the images of dead monks and of the military firing into unarmed crowds.

At this point, only a multilateral, concerted and collective effort demanding a peaceful approach by government to the protests, and an immediate return to political dialogue with the opposition, may work.

Possible mediation by a neutral third party (preferably from outside the region, but supported by Asean, China, India, the United States and Britain) might help. These minimalist demands are based only on the lowest common denominator for these countries, but the multi-lateralist concerted approach allows for the mitigation of policy dilemmas for the individual states.

Release Suu Kyi

In the meantime, however, individual leaders, governments, NGOs, prominent personalities, and others may continue to issue more specific demands, including the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, other prisoners of conscience, and of arrested demonstrators, or urgent action on a new constitution.

The Asean + 3, employing the additional economic leverage of Japan and Korea, might consider extending specific assistance for the alleviation of the economic crisis hitting citizens of Burma, but this should be conditional on political dialogue and reserving the primary role for NGOs, non-state actors and international organizations in the implementation of assistance programs.

As events throughout Burma are still unfolding, such predictions, prescriptions and recommendations may prove premature. But because the internal conflict in Burma appears to be moving farther away from resolution with each passing day, faced with the now legendary obduracy of the ruling junta, and because any further loss of life is too high a price to pay, the peoples of the world, including Filipinos or maybe especially Filipinos, must pay attention now.

(Aileen S.P. Baviera is the dean of Asian Center, University of the Philippines Diliman. The paper is based on remarks she delivered at the forum "Burma in Crisis: the Saffron Revolution," on Oct. 5 at the Asian Center.)

INQUIRER Mindanao

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The war of Bae Bibiyaon Likayan Bigkay

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

SHE RIFFLED THROUGH THE PAGES OF THE INQUIRER, HER hand steady and careful, and hurriedly flipped back to the front page and stared at the photos.

Bae Bibiyaon Likayan Bigkay recognized the images: the man was "Pek'yeo" while the woman between two Indian officials was "Ori'yeo."

Slowly chewing a betel nut—traces of being a longtime partner evident in her lips—the Ata-Manobo chieftain from the hinterlands of Bukidnon said she admired Pek'yeo because the man fought well. Pek'yeo is Filipino boxing champion Manny Pacquiao, whom she saw on television in Davao City several months ago.

She's not afraid of him, she said, and would even willingly face him in the ring for a match. With a bland smile, she said, Pek'yeo might have strong punches but nothing could beat her arrows.

From a bitter derision as she talked of how to beat Pek'yeo came a chafed indignation over Ori'yeo, or President Macapagal-Arroyo.

'Limbungan'

"If I get to meet her, I will confront her and tell her that she's the reason many "*lumad*" (indigenous peoples) in the hinterlands do not have food, why we suffer from poverty ... why many of us have lost access to our ancestral lands ... why many of us have gone into hiding ... why many of us have lost their loved ones," Bigkay said through an interpreter.

"She's a big reason for all these sufferings," the old woman said in an interview at a human rights center in Davao City recently. She stiffened and walked toward the glass windows.

Bigkay described the President as "*limbungan*" (cheater).

"She's taken advantage of the people, especially the *lumad*. Look at her—she's so rich—while we cannot even go to our farms and till the land without fear that the military will again suspect us of supporting the rebels, thus putting our lives in danger," Bigkay said in her native tongue.

That she is dauntlessly confrontational when provoked and passionate about fighting for the rights of her people come along Bigkay's being a *bibiyaon* or a woman tribal leader. It was a responsibility bequeathed to her by the Ata-Manobo elders when she was still a child. (This was the time when she convinced the elders to let her borrow a horse in behalf of her father, a negotiation carried out only by matured men.)

Now, she is one of the few women *lumad* leaders who is respected not only for her wisdom but also for being a fearless warrior. She punctuates this prominence by never failing to be at the forefront of her people's opposition to government projects that are deemed destructive to their ancestral lands.

Pantaron Range

Thrice a week, Bigkay gathers the people of her small village of Natulinan in San Fernando, Bukidnon, to discuss how to keep their defenses strong against mining and plantation companies. Central topic is how to keep the Pantaron Range free from "foreign intrusion."

"Pantaron is what is left to us. Without it, we will have nowhere to go," she said as she described the land still rich with fauna and flora, including herbs that the people use as medicine.

BIBIYAON Bigkay articulates her people's opposition against titling of the ancestral domain and calls for government's speedy action on armed lumad groups like Alamara who are victimizing them.
BARRY OHAYLAN, MINDANAO BUREAU

Bigkay recalled how, as a little girl, she would dare go to Pantaron to hunt with her uncle. Sometimes, she said, she would stay there for many months.

Alamara

But the woman warrior is also wanted by the Alamara, a paramilitary group of Ata-Manobos allegedly funded by the military and other tribal leaders who do not share her stand. She said she often moved around the community and into the forest, where she is most protected.

The Alamara has also become a ruthless group going after suspected supporters of communist rebels.

What concerns Bigkay more than herself is that her people might shed blood again as what happened to her niece who died several months ago when Alamara members looking for her fired at a hinterland school in Bukidnon.

People close to Bigkay claim that she is in the military's battle list on suspicion of supporting the New People's Army, along with other lumad leaders Datu Guibang Apoga and Datu Duloman Dawsay.

Bigkay said that the presence of soldiers had always been the community's problem as they prevent residents from doing their usual farming and other activities.

And because her farm is spacious, she said, the military would always regard her as "farming to feed the rebels."

Logging days

The government has been watching her, she admitted, being one of the few remaining *lumad* leaders who are critical of its "development" projects.

She cited the experience of the Ata-Manobos at the time of the giant logging company, Alcantara and Sons (Alsons). "They've (company owners) abused the mountains, leaving us with almost nothing at all. They have abused the land, our ancestral home. What they have already destroyed can no longer be restored. Now, look at us ... look at our children," she said.

Mining and other agricultural development projects are "*maruot*" (ugly), she said. Despite their many faces, these will never get her approval or that of the people who have already seen the destruction they have brought to them.

"I will die fighting for our land against those who only desire to get its resources and destroy it. If I, as *bibiyaon*, will allow them to desecrate the mountain again, it will mean that I have also allowed the destruction of my people because the mountain is our home, it is our life," Bigkay said.

Ipra

She cited as an example how the government sold out *lumad* land to investors using the legal instrument that is supposed to protect their rights—the Indigenous People's Rights Act (Ipra). The development thrusts are packaged as the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development Priorities Plan (ADSDPP).

The law, signed on Oct. 29, 1997, by then President Fidel V. Ramos, facilitated government interventions when ancestral lands have already been formally titled, Bigkay said. Government representatives have convinced other *lumad* leaders to enter into agreements with businessmen interested in turning their areas into banana and pineapple plantations or mining sites.

"This is the very reason I hate this law. It never served its purpose but instead it facilitated the oppression of the indigenous people," she said.

Now, Bigkay is among the tribal leaders in Bukidnon, Talaingod and other areas in the Davao provinces, North Cotabato and Agusan who are blocking moves to include their lands into areas whose formal titling is being processed by the National Commission for the Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

Tribal leaders, who met in Davao City recently, stormed the office of the NCIP-Southern Mindanao and lodged their complaints over the inutility of Ipra and how it had actually worked against them.

Roque Agton, director of NCIP-Southern Mindanao, said his office aimed to deliver to the *lumad* their lands by issuing titles to them. "Their lands are very vulnerable to the same developments that they are opposing if their lands are not titled," he said.

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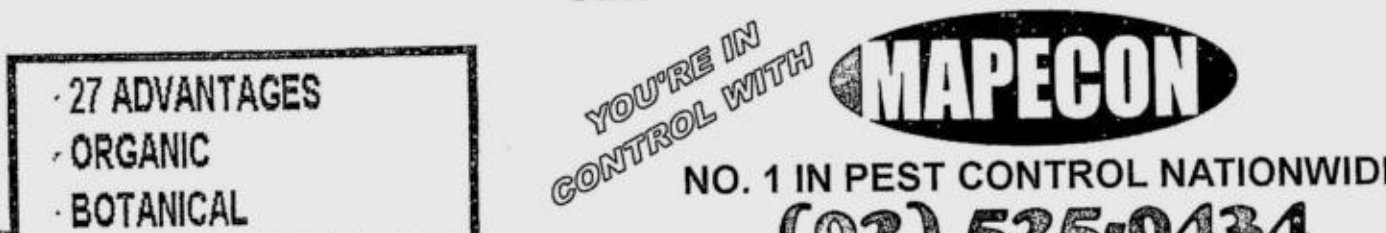

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Free Misuari, too, MNLF asks Gloria

COTABATO CITY—A RANKING LEADER OF THE Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) yesterday called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the release from jail of rebel leader Nur Misuari.

Hatimil Hassan, MNLF interim vice chair, told the INQUIRER by phone that if Ms Arroyo granted pardon to ousted President Joseph Estrada, the same should be extended to Misuari and 100 other Muslims who were arrested in connection with the so-called MNLF uprising.

"Releasing Misuari from jail will contribute to the ongoing peace venture of Malacañang with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. If they pardoned Estrada, why not Misuari too," Hassan said.

Hadji Charlie Apostol, MNLF information officer, said MNLF officials, led by MNLF secretary general Muslimin Sema is already drafting an urgent letter of appeal to the President on the matter.

Precedent

"Ex-President Estrada's pardon has set a precedent," Apostol told reporters.

Apostol said the MNLF believes that a pardon for Misuari would also boost "the spirit of reconciliation and unity, especially in Mindanao."

Misuari, now 67 years old, is being held under house arrest for rebellion but he has not been sentenced yet.

Apostol said Misuari's offense was political in nature and he is entitled to political clemency.

"Misuari is now aging," Apostol said.

Other opinions

Professor Abhoud Sayeed Mansur-lingga, director of the Institute for Bangsamoro Studies based here, also echoed the MNLF call.

"Like Estrada, Misuari should be released for humanitarian reasons," Lingga said.

The MNLF said releasing Misuari from jail would also ensure that he could attend the tripartite meeting between the government, the MNLF and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) set on Nov. 6 to 8 in Jeddah.

The meeting was aimed at reviewing the 1996 Peace Agreement between the government and the MNLF.

Broken promises

The MNLF has been complaining that the government failed to fulfill its part of the deal, which led to the 2002 uprising of its forces.

Secretary Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, said the tripartite meeting would be a venue to discuss problems hounding the agreement. *Joeffrey Maitem, Edwin O. Fernandez and Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao*

JULIE S. ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

A PORTRAIT of Nur Misuari painted by Rameer Tawasil, a Tausug native of Karundung Island in Kalinggalang Caluang Sulu. Tawasil's paintings are on display at the gallery of the Ateneo De Zamboanga University where majority of his art collectors are from the religious communities.

Study says unequal wealth sharing worsened

LUCENA CITY—IF FORMER President Joseph Estrada fulfills his vow to continue his crusade to fight against poverty, a tall order is waiting for him.

According to Ibon Foundation Inc., the 2006 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) indicates that poverty and income inequalities remain an urgent concern that the Arroyo administration needs to address.

Ibon executive editor Rosario Bella Guzman said in a statement furnished the INQUIRER that the share of the poorest 30 percent of the country's families in 2006 accounted for only 8.6 percent of the country's total income, while the top 10 percent accounted for almost 36 percent.

"This was almost the same as the 8.5 percent and 36.3 percent recorded in the 2003 FIES," Guzman said.

The FIES is a nationwide survey of households undertaken every three years by the National Statistics Office.

Guzman added: "Using government's own family living wage, poverty actually increased between 2003 and 2006. Comparing the 2006 FIES to average annual living wages (for a family of six) showed that poverty increased from 82 percent in 2003 to around 86 percent in 2006."

She said the statistics underscored the problem of an inequitable economy that favors a few while neglecting the welfare of millions of Filipinos.

"In fact, the combined wealth of the 40 richest Filipinos according to Forbes Asia is $17 billion (P773.5 billion at P45.5:$1), which is equal to the total incomes of nearly 60 percent of Filipino families or almost 52 million Filipinos," she added.

The problem of poverty and inequality, Guzman said, is certain to linger, especially in the absence of genuine reform policies that would result in a just redistribution of productive resources in the country. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Protest vs mining in Vizcaya greets DENR chief arrival

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZcaya—A unified call from local officials, Church leaders and residents to reject three mining projects in the province highlighted the visit here of Environment Secretary Lito Atienza on Wednesday.

Catholic Bishop Ramon Villena, along with tribal folk from upland Kasibu town, asked Atienza to revoke the permit issued to Oxiana Philippines Inc., an Australian firm, to explore an ore-rich area in Pao village.

Small miners also disclosed the alleged deceit and manipulation resorted to by workers of OceanaGold Philippines Inc., also an Australian company, to convince landowners in Didipio in Kasibu to sell their lands to the company.

Provincial board members presented to Atienza a copy of their resolution asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the exploration activities of British firm MTL Philippines Inc. in Runruno village in Quezon town.

Atienza was here to dialogue with Villena and tribal leaders from eight upland villages in Kasibu, who have led their people in setting up and maintaining a road blockade since July 2 to prevent the entry of Oxiana, now known as Royalco Resources Ltd.

He also separately met with local officials and Department of Environment and Natural Resources personnel.

During the dialogue, Atienza admitted he was "overwhelmed by the deluge of complaints and statements rejecting large-scale mining projects here." He, however, made a pitch for mining, saying "our country was bestowed with natural resources that must be used for its own development."

AN ANTIMINING protester pickets outside the DENR office in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

He urged the tribal leaders to look at the "overall picture and to consider the ways to help uplift the conditions of the greater number of people."

"Not all countries have these minerals. China may be a big country, but it does not have as rich resources as the Philippines. We are poor, but it's because we have mismanaged our government, we have mismanaged our resources," he said.

Atienza cited the experiences of Arab countries, as well as New Zealand and Australia, which supposedly became progressive because of the "wise use" of their natural resources.

2 Pakistan nationals held for drug trade

CEBU CITY—THE Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Central Visayas (PDEA 7) has arrested two Pakistan nationals in a downtown Cebu City hotel after they were caught with P1 million worth of restricted drugs on Friday.

PDEA 7 intelligence officer Levi Valmoria identified the suspects as Majid B. Khan, 30, single, who gave 74-1 C. Jose Street, Malibug, Pasay City as his Philippine address; and Chaudhry Khuram Aziz, 33, married who claimed to be residing at the Sinuar Condo, Luna Street, Pasay City.

The PDEA seized from Khan and Aziz 90 pieces of Ketamine vials, 1,500 Nitrazepam tablets, 540 Ativan tablets, two boxes of Viagra and 546 Cytotec tablets.

Of the five drugs, only Ketamine, Nitrazepam and Ativan were classified as restricted drugs. Ketamine is a synthetic general anesthetic; Nitrazepam treats sleeping disorder; and Ativan or Lorazepam is a tranquilizer.

Ketamine, which comes in both powder and liquid form, is an anesthetic that is abused by drug users for its hallucinogenic properties, according to an information gathered from the website of the United States National Drug Intelligence Center.

Valmoria said they have monitored the activities of the two Pakistan nationals for three months before conducting a buy-bust operation. *Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

Farmers on 60-day walk for land reach Visayas

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Protesting Higaonon farmers from Sumilao, Bukidnon have started the Visayas leg of their 60-day protest-march to Manila on Thursday through a 30-kilometer walk from Liloan to St. Bernard in Southern Leyte.

The Visayas leg is about 405 km long and will last for 16 days, according to Balaod Mindanaw, the nongovernment legal group assisting the farmers.

On Tuesday, the farmers completed the march's Mindanao leg, which totaled 435 km from their home village of San Vicente in Sumilao to Surigao City.

They arrived in Liloan from Surigao City on Wednesday via ferry and took their day-off from the streets.

The protest-march seeks to dramatize the farmers' 10-year clamor for ownership of the 144-hectare Quisumbing Estate, which they claim is part of their ancestral land.

In 1995, the farmers were issued a certificate of land ownership award over the estate but Malacañang later canceled the Cloa.

Originally numbering 54 when they left San Vicente village about 4 a.m. of Oct. 10, the farmer-marchers are now down to 51 when their medical support team decided not to let Sonia Bayo and Dote Agustin continue with the pilgrimage-like walk that extends to some 1,600 km to Manila.

A week of walking had taken physical toll on the two marchers with Agustin suffering from persistent fever while Bayo with recurring stomach pains and vomiting.

Emerita Buclasan was forced to return here to attend to her sick husband. *Ryan D. Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao*

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ELECTION NO-NOs

Prohibited acts in connection with the synchronized elections of Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials on October 29, 2007

EVE OF ELECTION (October 28, 2007, Sunday)

- Campaigning.
- Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving, or taking intoxicating liquor.
- Giving, accepting free transportation, food, drinks and things of value.

Note: Acts mentioned in three preceeding paragraphs are prohibited until election day.

ELECTION DAY (October 29, 2007, Monday)

- Vote buying and vote selling.
- Voting more than once or in substitution of another.
- Campaigning.
- Soliciting votes or undertaking any propaganda for or against any candidate or any political party within the polling place or within thirty (30) meters thereof.
- Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving, or taking intoxicating liquor.
- Opening of booths or stalls for the sale, etc., of wares, merchandise, or refreshments, within thirty (30) meters radius from the polling place.
- Giving, accepting free transportation, food, drinks and things of value.
- Holding of fairs, cockfights, boxing, horse races or similar sports.

Casting of votes on election day will run from 7:00 o'clock in the morning up to 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon. The counting and canvassing of votes and proclamation of winning candidates will happen immediately after 3:00 o'clock P.M.

Violation to the above stated rules constitutes an election offense punishable with one (1) to six (6) years imprisonment and disqualification to hold public office.

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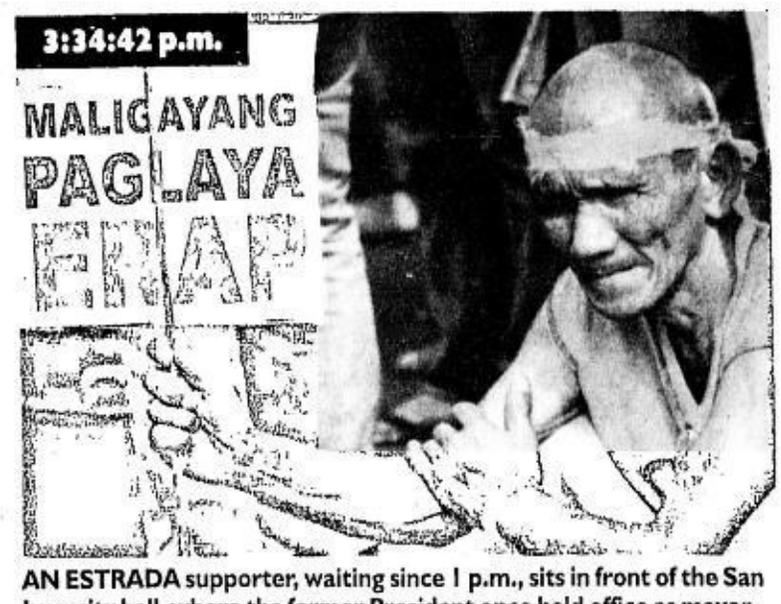
The homecoming

FORMER President Joseph Estrada walks past his future tomb at his Tanay estate, where he was detained for more than three years. Six hours later, he was a free man. JAY JAVELOSA



AN ESTRADA supporter, waiting since 1 p.m., sits in front of the San Juan city hall, where the former President once held office as mayor. ERIK ARAZAS

FATHER and son endure the heat and rain waiting to give their warmest welcome to the pardoned former President. ERIK ARAZAS

RESIDENTS of San Juan hold up vintage posters of Estrada with the seal of the presidency. ERIK ARAZAS

ESTRADA arrives at San Juan city hall, accompanied by his son, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito (right) and other officials including Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim (back). ERIK ARAZAS

MOBBED by the crowd, Estrada is helped onto the stage, where he delivered a short speech. ERIK ARAZAS

Erap's first night at No. 1 Polk Street

From page A1

peached then driven out of Malacañang, may be gnashing their teeth.

But there would be no party poopers that night.

Estrada, whose life sentence was set aside by his successor President Macapagal-Arroyo just six weeks after his conviction for plunder, was a gracious host once again at No. 1 Polk Street.

Mobbed minutes earlier by his townspeople at City Hall, where he gave a speech remarkably thanking Ms Arroyo and urging them to applaud her, "Erap" kept his bright red jacket on and remained the eye-catcher at the buffet dinner set on his sprawling lawn.

Sheltered from the drizzly night sky by white marquees, tables and fine cutlery were set for about 200 guests. Catering was by Via Mare. Mantle pieces, ribbons and balloons were ordered in white and orange, the latter being Estrada's campaign color.

Music begins

The tents were set up to serve as extensions of a reception area built separate from the actual house. Estrada dined at this reception area and shared the table with his former Cabinet and Senate President Manuel Villar. Sen. Francis Escudero later joined them.

Other guests seized the moment to be photographed with the returning master of the house.

By then a pianist had begun playing.

In one corner, an exhausted Ferdie Ramos, Estrada's lead coordinator for the media, sat on a sofa, taking his time to eat and reflecting on the day that had passed—and on the six and a half years that came before it.

Early during Estrada's detention, he had many meals with Estrada under a totally different mood, Ramos recalled.

'How did this happen?'

Back in 2001 when his boss was still being held at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, Ramos said, there were times when only the two of them would end up sharing the food served on a long table.

This was when all the visitors had left and Estrada would have no one else for company but his then co-accused son Jinggoy and some members of his household staff.

Ramos recalled having one such lunch with Estrada at which the deposed president, barely touching his food, wondered aloud in Filipino: "What really happened, Ferdie? How did we get to this?"

That old gang of mine

The Friday night party on Estrada's first night of full freedom seemed like a gathering of "That Old Gang of Mine"—and more.

The guest list included former Press Secretary Ricardo "Dong" Puno, former Finance Secretary Jose Pardo de Tavera, former Transport Secretary Vicente Rivera, former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez, former Labor Secretary Benny Laguesma, former Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio "Boy" Morales and former Public Works Secretary Gregorio Vigilar.

Also around were Sen. Loren Legarda and ex-Sen. Francisco "Kit" Tatad. Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo "Ompong" Plaza, Genuine Opposition spokesperson Adel Tamano and Ms Arroyo's half-sister, Cielo Macapagal, also came.

Guests said the party was heavy on reminiscence and light on political talk.

Laguesma said, Estrada was in "high spirits" and "very chatty," giving his guests updates on his ailing mother, the 102-year-old Mary Ejercito, who is being sustained in hospital by life-support machines.

Agonizing choice

"It was all a social party," San Juan City Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said, adding that it felt like a reunion.

"There was no politics last night. His focus was his mother," Laguesma said.

Laguesma said Estrada, who was designated by his siblings to decide whether or not to remove his mother's life support, was agonizing about the decision.

"He asked (ex-Health Secretary 'Quasi' Romualdez) for advice," Zamora said. "Quasi said, 'I don't think she's feeling any pain ... At this stage in her condition, she will just fade away. There is no need for a dramatic decision.'"

The most striking political comment Estrada made was his narration of the crowd's reaction to his speech at the San Juan city hall shortly after his release.

"When he went to San Juan to speak, he said be thankful to Mrs. Arroyo. But the people did not applaud," Laguesma said.

Other guests said their host was "vintage Erap," cracking jokes and reminiscing about the good old days with his former Cabinet secretaries and former Ateneo classmates.

"He was really having a good time," Escudero said. "...There were even some jokes about President Arroyo."

Escudero said Estrada kidded around, especially when he talked about the new bed ordered by his wife, former Sen. Loi Ejercito, and how it was just delivered in time for his first night of freedom.

The party broke up at about 4 a.m.

'Am I still in Tanay?'

When Estrada woke up at around noon yesterday, he blinked and looked around his surroundings.

"Parang sinasabi nya, 'nasaan ako?' Akala niya nasa Tanay pa siya (It was as if he was saying, 'Where am I?' He thought he was still in Tanay)," wife Loi said, chuckling.

A security officer said they had to remind Estrada that he was not bound by restrictions anymore.

With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan and Norman Bordadora

ESTRADA asks 5,000 supporters in San Juan to give President Macapagal-Arroyo a big hand for granting him clemency. EDWIN BACASMAS

OVER AT Estrada's residence on Polk Street, a tent, tables and chairs and a buffet for 200 guests had been set up on the lawn waiting for Estrada's arrival. JOAN BONDOC

LOI EJERCITO waits with son-in-law, Beaver Lopez, and some of the children and grandchildren for Estrada to arrive at their home on Polk Street. JOAN BONDOC

ESTRADA is welcomed by wife Loi to their home. JOAN BONDOC

UP to honor grad chosen by Harvard as scientist of the year

BALDOMERO

THE MAN WHOSE RESEARCH LED to a groundbreaking medical discovery—a drug a thousand times more potent than morphine but without its drawbacks—will be conferred an honorary doctorate by his alma mater, the University of the Philippines.

Dr. Baldomero M. Olivera, who has been named 2007 Scientist of the Year by the Harvard Foundation at Harvard University, will receive the degree of doctor of science *honoris causa* on Jan. 16 at the UP Film Center, where he will also deliver a lecture as part of the UP Centennial celebrations.

Olivera and his research team, which includes National Scientist Dr. Lourdes J. Cruz of the UP Marine Science Institute, studied toxins in poisonous cone snails collected in the Philippines and discovered biomolecules called conotoxins.

Prialt, a chronic pain-relief drug, is the result of this study. It is a synthetic compound derived from conotoxins and is widely prescribed to cancer patients.

Significance

The significance of this discovery is that while conotoxins are more powerful than morphine, they do not induce tolerance. (Cancer patients who take morphine for chronic pain develop tolerance for the drug, so in the long run, increased amounts of morphine are prescribed to treat the same amount of pain.)

Because of his contributions to biochemistry, particularly his breakthrough research in conotoxins, Olivera is acknowledged and recognized by the international scientific community.

This year alone, apart from being named Scientist of the Year by the Harvard Foundation, he was also elected to the American Philosophical Society and became a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

'He never really left'

Olivera has "never really left UP," according to UP President Emerlinda R. Roman.

Since he obtained his bachelor's degree in chemistry *summa cum laude* in 1960, and despite having lived in the United States for many years as a sought-after professor and researcher, he has continued to maintain his relationship with his alma mater.

He still comes to UP twice a year to deliver lectures and conduct training seminars for students and faculty.

And as a distinguished professor of biology at the University of Utah, he makes his laboratory available to UP's budding scientists.

Olivera recently accepted from UP the position of adjunct professor. This will enable him to continue doing research with the university's students and faculty.

Olivera obtained his doctoral degree in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology in 1966 and did postdoctoral work at the Stanford University School of Medicine. *Arlyn VCD Palisoc Romualdo, Contributor*

2 legal experts question legality of pardon

Palace: Why Villa-Ignacio, of all people?

By Norman Bordadora and Inquirer bureaus

TWO LEGAL EXPERTS YESterday raised serious questions about the legality of the pardon granted by President Macapagal-Arroyo to deposed leader Joseph Estrada, with one of the experts accusing her of a brazen violation of the law.

"I concede that it is the prerogative of President GMA to pardon Erap Estrada. Whether GMA has the legal and moral basis to do so is another question altogether," elder statesman and ex-Senate President Jovito Salonga said.

Lawyer Jose Feria Jr., president of the Philippine Bar Association, challenged the legality of the executive clemency granted to Estrada, a convicted plunderer.

"The precipitate haste which characterizes the grant of pardon ... is very disturbing and a cause for serious concern, if not alarm," Feria said in a statement.

"While the President's constitutional power to grant executive clemency exists, the exercise thereof is not unbridled but bound by certain procedures and guidelines enacted pursuant to law."

Feria said under the Administrative Code of 1987 and amended guidelines, Ms Arroyo should have consulted various government officials, including the secretary of defense, before extending a pardon to Estrada.

Political survival

"Why then the precipitate haste and the brazen violation of the law and the guidelines governing the matter?"

Feria said that if the Philippines "is to be a strong republic, then it cannot be founded on compromise and political accommodations given under threats and extortion, or for self-interest or political survival."

"How can a pardon be granted when the convict himself continually sneers at the integrity of the justice system that found him guilty; when he remains defiant and without remorse?"

The Philippine Bar Association is the oldest voluntary national organization of lawyers throughout the Philippines, tracing its roots to 1891.

Even allies are opposed

It was among various groups that called for Estrada's resignation before his downfall in 2001.

The clemency grant drew criticism from church, civic and political leaders, including those allied with Ms Arroyo, in different parts of the country.

"Why would someone who only stole a pair of jeans be placed behind bars when the person who stole billions of pesos from the government is granted freedom," asked Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña, an ally of Ms Arroyo.

Capiz Gov. Victor A. Tanco Sr. said: "Those who are rich and powerful, even though convicted, can still go free."

He suggested the power to pardon be removed from the President "because that power can be abused for political reasons."

"I am enraged to the core of my being," said Msgr. Meliton Oso, executive director of the Jaro Archdiocese social action center. "The act encourages more corruption."

Bishop Gaspar Banes of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente in Iloilo said clemency could only be given to one who had admitted guilt and shown remorse.

Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Cebu City chapter president Briccio Boholst said the pardon would encourage people to think "it's better to commit bigger crimes because you will get preferential treatment."

Pure politics

Former Capiz governor Jose Borda said of Ms Arroyo's decision: "(There was) nothing to it but pure politics of survival."

Kristin Treñas, spokesperson of the Estrada Resign Movement in Iloilo in 2001, wore black clothes in mourning. She called Ms Arroyo a "traitor" to the people.

"It is a mockery of our justice system," said Fr. Rene Eriga of the San Pablo Diocesan Social Action Center in Laguna.

Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona of Infanta, Quezon, said he hoped the pardon would not send the wrong signal that crime pays but that, instead, it would open the way to national reconciliation.

University professor Mia Agu of Legazpi, Albay, said: "Just because someone becomes old and sickly, it doesn't mean it's justifiable to forgive him for his offenses."

'Looks scripted'

"*Parang naloko lang tayo. Parang* scripted (It looks like we were had. It looks scripted)," said tricycle driver Dong Fajardo of San Pedro, Laguna.

Israelito Torreon, president of the Davao del Sur chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, said Malacañang was "sending a wrong message to our people and to the international community."

In General Santos City, Bro. Manny de Leon of the Pinoy, Marangal Ka Movement, said the pardon was an example of "justice by convenience."

"What lesson do the people get from this case? That in this country only petty thieves land in jail, never the plunderers," said Beverly Selim-Musni, labor arbiter of National Labor Relations Commission in Mindanao.

The leftist Kilusang Mayo Uno said it would seek a clarification from the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) and the Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice (UMDJ) on their positions regarding the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency.

Members of PMAP and UMDJ are supporters of Estrada. *With reports from Jerome Aning, and Delfin Mallari Jr., Romulo Ponte, Redempto Anda, Marlon Alexander Luistro, Niña Catherine Calleja, Ephraim Aguila, Marlon Ramos and Donna Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Franklin A. Caliguid, Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Joselle Badilla, Rizalene Acac, Aquiles Zonio, Grace Albasin, Julie Alipala, Orlando Dinoy, Franklin Caliguid, Alvin Añonuevo, Charlie Señase, Ryan Rosauro and Richel Umel, Inquirer Mindanao; Felipe V. Celino, Nestor Burgos, Joey A. Gabieta, Carla P. Gomez, Jhunnex Napallacan and Jani Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas*

Antipoverty job for Erap?

From page A1

was freed that he had no intention of going back into "dirty politics" and would just remain a plain citizen while continuing with his avowed mission of eradicating poverty in the country.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, who had worked for Estrada's pardon, yesterday said the issue of whether Estrada would be given a government post should not becloud Ms Arroyo's grant of executive clemency.

"Erap already said he no longer wants any government position," said Puno, without elaborating.

Asked if Estrada would be given a key "role" in the National Anti-Poverty Commission, acting Executive Secretary Ignacio Bunye said on radio dzRB: "We don't have information as to specifics, but his offer to help in pushing for antipoverty programs that will (benefit) the people, definitely that's very welcome from the former President."

Bunye said that the government's fight against poverty could be fast-tracked with Estrada on board.

"*Napakalaking bagay niyan. Tumatakbo tayo ng* 50 kph, *pagka nagtulong-tulong ang kababayan natin baka mas mabilis*, we'll probably hit 75 kph *kung masusulong ang ekonomiya* (That will be a big thing. If say, we're running at 50 kph, we can go as fast as 75 kph if our countrymen will all help in pushing the economy forward)," Bunye said.

Remonde, one of President Arroyo's closest confidants, said that allowing Estrada to work with the government could help foster national unity since the latter himself vowed to dedicate the remaining years of his life to helping the poor.

"It's OK. I don't see any reason why the government should not be willing to work with him, especially because he has said that his concern now is to help the poor, which is also the concern of the government," Remonde said.

Since both Ms Arroyo and Estrada have a "similar objective," Remonde said "there is no reason why we can't work together."

Remonde said "working together can be in many ways," noting that the government had been enlisting the help of various groups and nongovernment organizations to break the cycle of poverty that has been hindering progress.

Remonde said he was aware that talk about a government post for Estrada this early would only fuel suspicion that there were strings attached to the executive clemency extended him by Ms Arroyo.

"No talk about that (yet in the Cabinet)," said Remonde.

Asked if Ms Arroyo could work with Estrada in his private capacity, the secretary said: "We're willing to work (with him) in whatever capacity but not offer him (a post outright)."

In an earlier interview with GMA 7, Remonde said: "I don't see why it's not possible that he can help in these programs."

He had been asked if Malacañang would give Estrada a key role in its antipoverty program.

Wildfires bring out warmth of Fil-Am families

From page A1

Jim Tito San Agustin. "So they'd rather stay with family than check into a hotel or go to an evacuation center."

San Agustin heads a consulate team formed on Wednesday to locate Filipino victims of the raging wildfires in Southern California.

The team visited Qualcomm Stadium, the largest evacuation center in San Diego, but did not find any Filipinos among the thousands housed there.

They were later told by Fil-Am community leaders in San Diego that the Filipino evacuees were staying with relatives.

Undocumented immigrants

San Agustin said they had asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema) and county governments to help locate Filipino victims of the wildfires, which sparked the largest evacuation in the United States since hurricane Katrina in 2005. The consulate also opened an emergency line for displaced Filipino nationals: (213) 268-9990.

According to a census, there are 480,000 Filipinos in Southern California, with the majority living in Los Angeles and San Diego. The number is believed to be much higher since census numbers do not include undocumented immigrants.

San Agustin said they were especially concerned about undocumented Filipino immigrants, who may have been displaced by the wildfires. Under the law, undocumented immigrants are not entitled to federal aid for disaster victims.

"This is where we (the consulate) and Filipino organizations come in to assist them," he said.

500,000 evacuated

The Micianos are among the half-a-million people evacuated from their homes in San Diego, one of seven Southern California counties ravaged by relentless wildfires.

The other counties are: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara and Ventura. The latest census shows that the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County metropolitan area has over 370,000 Filipinos.

As of Wednesday (Thursday in Manila), the wildfires had burned nearly 500,000 acres (200 hectares) and destroyed more than 1,400 homes, reported California's Office of Emergency Services (OES).

About 500,000 were evacuated in San Diego County alone, and more than 8,000 firefighters were deployed to battle the blaze throughout Southern California, the OES said.

State of emergency

The devastation prompted US President George W. Bush to declare a state of emergency in Southern California and to order federal officials to work with local authorities to bring aid to the fire-stricken region.

San Diego officials estimated damages, in the county alone, at $1 billion (P44 billion). As many as 10,000 evacuees fled to Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, and thousands of other evacuees were at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, one of a dozen or so temporary shelters countywide.

Miciano was relieved to learn that their four-bedroom home had been spared by the wildfires.

As of press time, he was waiting for an order allowing them to go back to their homes.

"We can't wait to go home," he said. "We feel so blessed it's still there. I'm even more thankful that my whole family is safe."

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INQUIRER SESSIONS

Young reader inspires others

SEVEN-year-old Ira Rose Dacatimban acts out the story she read during the INQUIRER Read-Along yesterday. RODEL ROTONI

By Schatzi Quodala
Inquirer Research

ONE IS NEVER TOO YOUNG TO TEACH LOVE OF reading and enjoy doing it. This was what 7-year-old Ira Rose Dacatimban showed at the INQUIRER Read-Along session yesterday.

Ira Rose, one of the winners in the division level of the "*Pagkukwento sa Filipino*" (Storytelling in Filipino) contest held in Pasig earlier this year, was a guest reader at the 13th session of the program aimed at teaching the love of reading to children.

Rather than just reading aloud, however, Ira Rose acted out Rebecca Añonuevo's story, "*Ang Mahiyaing Manok*," (The Bashful Chicken) complete with a song and dance.

Ira Rose never showed any signs of nervousness even though many of the participating children, some of them with their parents, were older than her.

Zoraida Simbulan, her coach, said Ira Rose was "not a shy child and that even if she was, she would still perform for the audience because she loves what she is doing."

First love is poetry

Imelda, the young girl's mother, said Ira Rose loved reading poetry at first. When she turned 5, Ira Rose began craving children's storybooks.

"I love reading books by Filipino authors," said Ira Rose. Her favorites include books written by Rene Villanueva and Doc Luis Gatmaitan, who are Palanca award-winning writers. She said the two authors' books "teach a lot of lessons and are also educational."

Ira Rose said she learned to appreciate reading because of her teachers and parents. The latter were always around when she needed encouragement but she was never forced to read, she said.

Digna Aquino of the Library Hub in Pasig, which coordinated the storytelling contest, said the library encourages "kids to read to kids so that the other children will be inspired to love reading, especially the children who are studying in public schools."

Aquino noted that "reading rates in public schools are very low."

Most borrowed

The Library Hub, which "aims to develop [a] genuine love of reading," lends out its books to public schools in Pasig. The most borrowed books are picture books, said Aquino.

Apart from storytelling contests, including the one that Ira Rose joined, the Library Hub also plans to sponsor essay writing and book review writing contests.

Michelle Agas, a reader from the Alitaptap storytelling group, said she knew exactly what Aquino was talking about as she herself was a product of a public elementary school.

Agas, an elementary education major at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, said that when she was young she did not get to own or read many children's books. She only had textbooks and the school library was not much help.

She said that it was only very recently that she got her own books. "Now I have my own collection," Agas said.

Agas read "Cat Eyes" by Lara Saguisag and "Pipo the Clown," both of which were from her own collection.

Grand champion

Agas was the grand champion of the recently concluded storyteller contest of Alitaptap, a group that organizes storytelling sessions using chamber theater to act out the stories. Agas automatically became a member of the group after winning the competition.

Yesterday's Read-Along session was sponsored by Soroptomist International of Eastwood City, Library Hub Pasig, Krispy Kreme and Scholastic Inc.

The next INQUIRER Read-Along is scheduled for Nov. 5 in Baguio City with United States Ambassador Kristie Kenney as guest reader, and on Nov. 10 at the INQUIRER office in Makati.

Interested participants may contact Ellen Caparros or Girlie Refran at 897-8808, local 329. Slots are on a first come, first served basis.

With a report from Eliza Victoria

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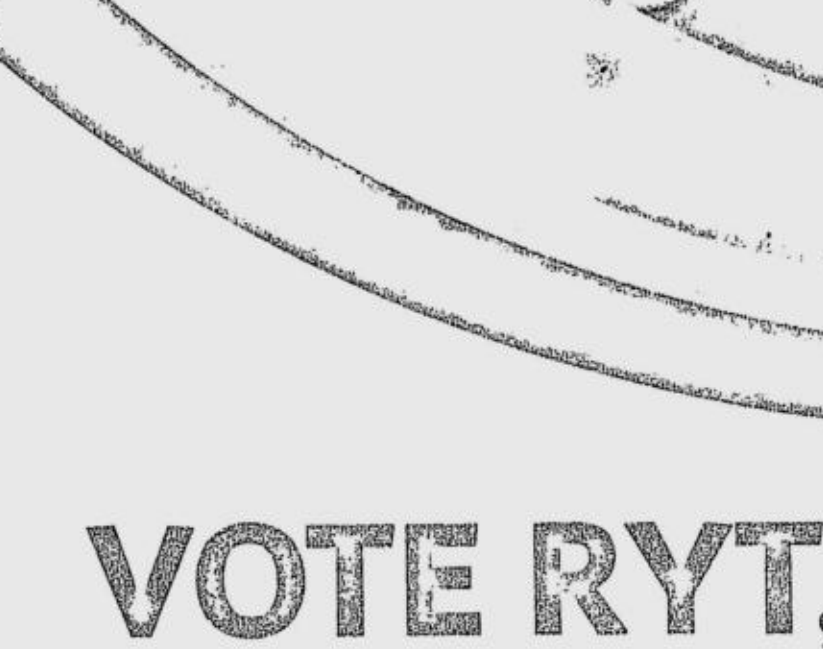
Get the whole barkada to vote at the Sangguniang Kabataan Elections on October 29, 2007.



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Nature girl is Mother Earth's lawyer

By Tina G. Santos

MARIA PAZ "IPAT" LUNA'S 5-year-old son, Alon, screams, "Secondhand smoking kills!" whenever he comes across a person puffing on a cigarette.

He also gets to eat in a fast food restaurant only when he is invited to a friend's birthday party.

Alon's habits reflect the kind of lifestyle his mother, an environmental lawyer working for Tanggol Kalikasan (Environment Defense) and the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (E-LAW), wants her family to lead.

Luna strongly believes that people should do something for the environment, whichever way they can.

That's why apart from defending the environment in a court of law, she also practices what she preaches in her own household.

"The first lesson I try to impose on my son and I think he's learning, is no wastage," said the proud mom.

Luna added: "I told him that once he starts playing around with the shampoo, the soap and the water, he's being wasteful. Those are very valuable resources and it's hard to return them to the state where they may be useful again."

The lawyer was forced to enroll Alon in a home school program for environmental reasons, too.

"Every time there was a party in his preschool, I found myself segregating all the trash that his classmates would leave behind. I thought he was learning things which I don't allow at home," she explained.

Luna however, admitted, that "after about 20 years of pushing myself how to live in an environmentally friendly way, it's becoming harder and harder because each and every single decision has an impact on the environment now."

"I try to make very careful purchases. Shopping for food takes hours because you have to keep considering whether or not what you're buying is healthy and environment-friendly," she said.

Thankfully, leading a pro-Mother Earth lifestyle is easier because of her husband, broadcast journalist Howie Severino, to whom she has been married for 13 years.

"I am glad I found a soul mate who is just as concerned about the environment and who doesn't complain when I insist on using biodegradable soap, no pesticides or toxic chemicals in the house or a slow food diet. In fact, a good deal of the decisions I make about stepping lightly on the earth are arrived at together with him," she told the INQUIRER.

LUNA and son, Alon, who is enrolled in a home school program. "I thought he was learning things which I don't allow at home," she said.

MARIA Paz "Ipat" Luna: "Every single decision has an impact on the environment now."

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

There are only two things Luna said she feels strongly about —smoking and breast-feeding.

But unlike her son, she doesn't scream about the harmful effects of smoking whenever somebody in her vicinity lights a cigarette.

"I say it nicely, like 'I have asthma, can you please do it outside?' But my son, he really screams. Though it's true, smoking really kills. Every pack of cigarette is shortened life, probably a drain in the entire health care system which has also an environmental impact like breast-feeding," Luna explained. "A person who was not breast-fed as a baby is prone to catching diseases," she said, adding that she breast-fed her son until he was 4.

A volunteer counsel for breast-feeding organizations Children for Breastfeeding and Arugaan, Luna said her family has been boycotting a popular multinational food company because of its record in marketing a breast milk substitute.

These days, Luna, who is also an advocate of the Wildbird Club of the Philippines, spends most of her free time bird watching at the American Cemetery, enjoying the sunset or watching dragon boat racers in Baywalk or just biking around the CCP Complex.

Growing up in Batangas, her parents' hometown, Luna said her strong passion for the environment stemmed from her happy experiences during her younger days.

"I remember swimming at Taal Lake a lot. We spent many evenings near the lake enjoying the sight of fireflies gathered around the *balete* tree or walking in the *lanzones* orchard with my family," she said.

She initially considered taking up medicine but eventually changed her mind and decided to pursue law after she won in a debate contest when she was a college sophomore.

"I shifted from BS to AB Psychology, then I went to law school at the University of the Philippines," she said. "But I would still be an advocate of the environment or social justice had I gone into a different profession."

Luna has worked on a wide range of environmental issues, including law enforcement, protected area management, environmental impact assessment and equitable access to resources.

Among the organizations she has been affiliated with are the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center, the Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources and a consortium called "NGOs for Integrated Protected Areas."

Among the more well-known cases she has been involved in was the one involving the Arroceros Forest Park, a 2.2-hectare property described as Manila's last lung.

In 2005, environmental group Winner Foundation sued then Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and the city government for constructing a teacher's building inside the forest park.

"I handled the environmental administrative aspect, specifically concerning the trees that were removed in the area to give way to the building's construction," Luna said.

Winner withdrew in August the civil case against Atienza after his successor, Mayor Alfredo Lim, reopened the park to the public.

More recently, she found herself handling another case, this time concerning the 175-hectare bird sanctuary and eco-tourism area in the cities of Las Piñas and Parañaque.

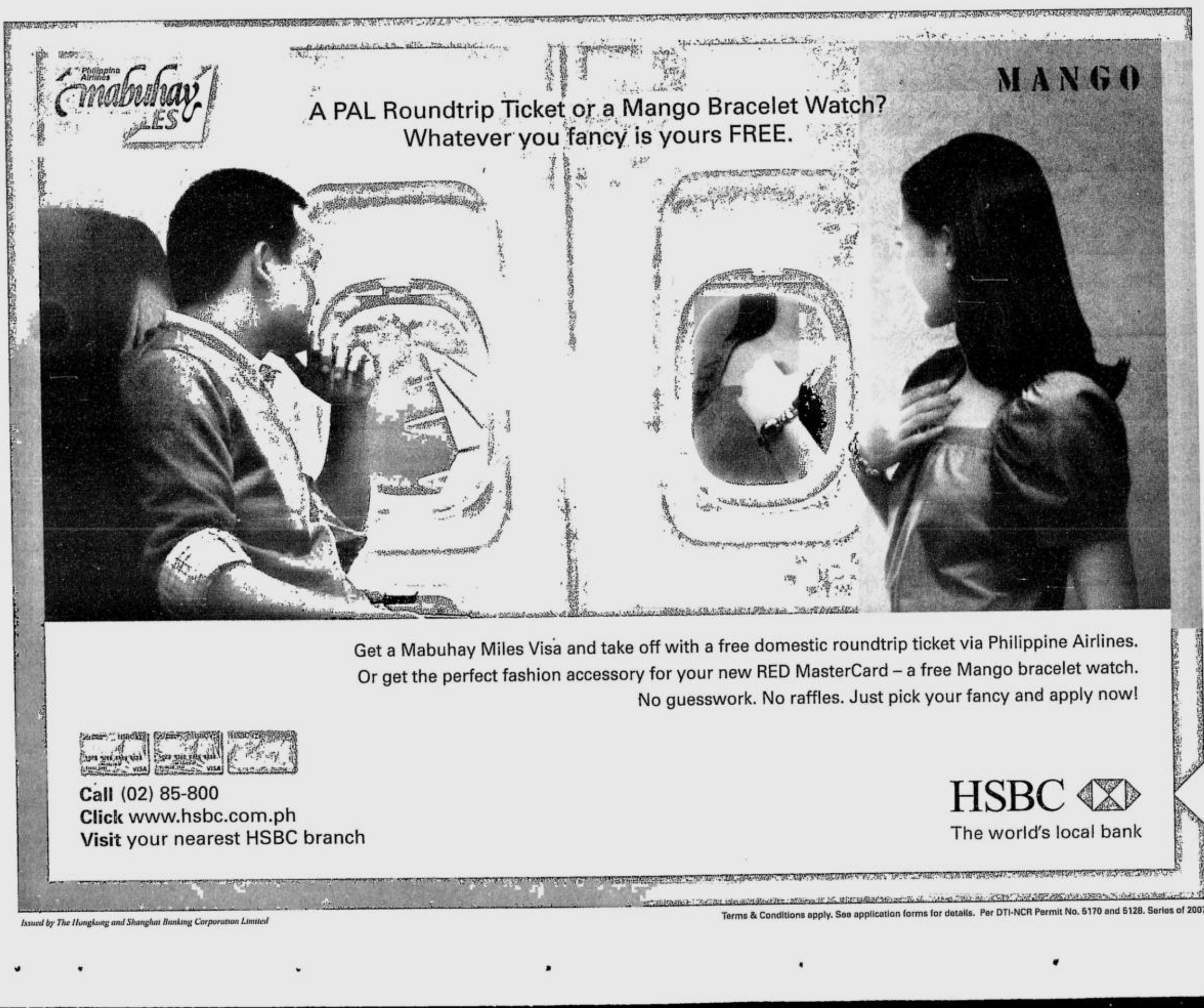
Luna, whose cases are mostly *pro bono*, will receive at the end of the month an award for a paper she wrote about her group's conservation efforts in Taal Lake.

The paper will be awarded the Kasimagaura Prize, a recognition given every two years by the Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan simultaneously with the holding of the World Lakes Conferences.

"The paper details our work in Taal Lake and the framework we are using to gather the stakeholders toward a workable management plan," she said.

Luna happily noted that the public's mindset about the environment has changed through the years.

"We can probably attribute the increasing interest because of recent disasters and the realization that climate change is upon us," she stressed. "Definitely, a lot of people now want to do something good for the environment."



"THE ONLY way we can discourage our workers from seeking greener pastures is by enhancing their conditions here. If we look at India, its workers are now coming back by the thousands because its economy has been improving."
SEN. LOREN LEGARDA, October 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor **Gerry Lirio**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2007

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on la[illegible] and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

How my wife saved her earnings from Kuwait

By Armand Dean Nocum
Contributor

"LET'S KEEP THIS FAMILY TOgether even if we have to sell *taho*." This was the pledge my wife Ann Sahi-Nocum and I made when we decided that she quit working as a nurse at the Al-Jahra Hospital in Kuwait in 1997.

This was the time when our eldest child Arriza was growing up in my brother's family in Zamboanga City and was becoming more isolated from us day-by-day, having grown so much attached to her adopted family.

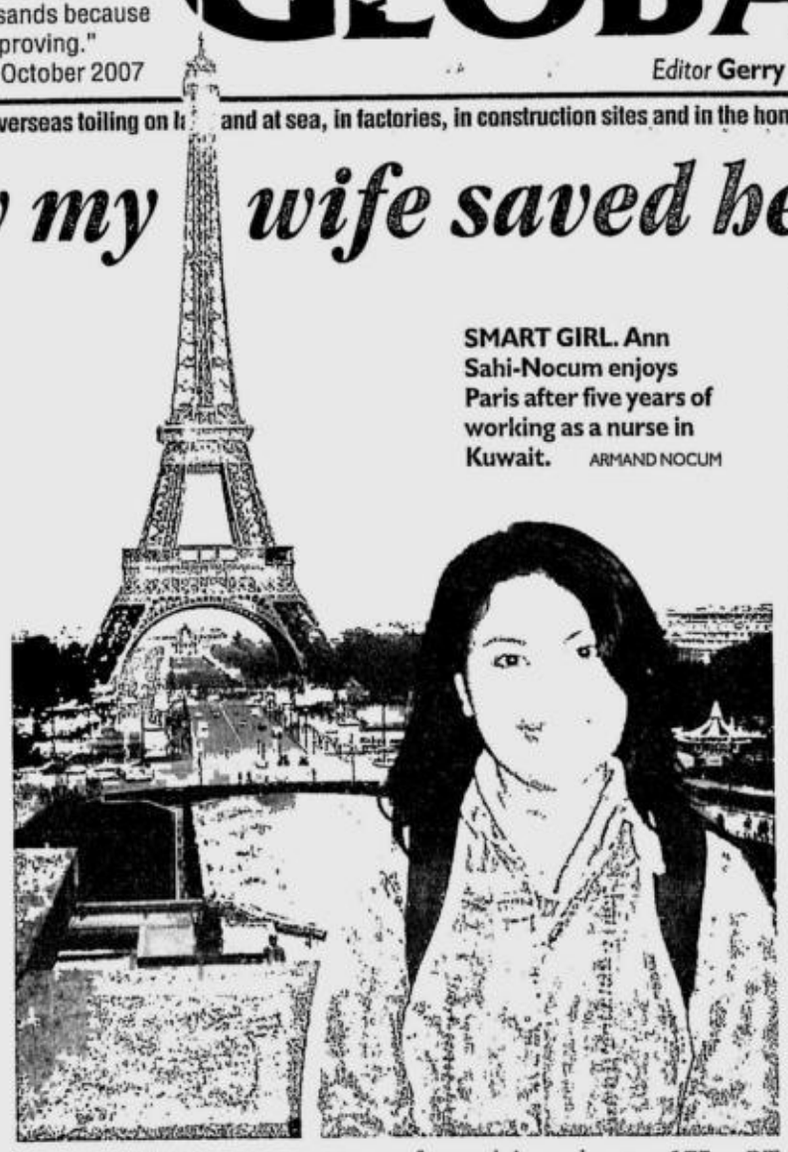
Born in Kuwait, Arriza was just 2-months-old when Ann brought her to the family of my brother Joey and his wife Edel.

We found the arrangement convenient because it afforded Ann to work for five years abroad. And what a five-year ordeal it was! We were a family living in three corners of the globe—me in Manila, Ann in Kuwait and Arizza in Zamboanga City. To say that it was pain-filled years for us is an understatement.

But was it all worth it?

Because we opted to live a frugal life, we earned the notoriety of being the "most stingy" in a clan with lots of spendthrift OFWs.

Saving up was not easy when most of your relatives expected you to give money at every occasion and every imaginable emergency situation.



SMART GIRL. Ann Sahi-Nocum enjoys Paris after five years of working as a nurse in Kuwait. ARMAND NOCUM

While others gave out gold necklaces, watches, shoes and hundreds of dollars, we gave cheap perfume, chocolates and a few peso bills.

While other OFW families lived in rented condos and apartments, I stayed in a rat-infested rented room that was originally built as a dirty kitchen. While other OFWs were buying cars, I was reporting for work in my beat-up 175 cc DT Yamaha motorcycle.

It was a joke in the family that in her five years abroad, Ann only bought me a watch, a ring, a necklace, perfumes and three music compact discs. One couldn't point then to any electronic appliance in the house that was brought here from Kuwait.

Fortunately, those days of sacrifices paid off. Ann has invested and prospered in the used-car business, with outlets in Zamboanga City, Quezon City and Edsa near Robinsons Galleria.

We now give our relatives gainful employment in the Satti Grill House food outlet we opened up not long ago in SM-Fairview Food Court. And we are set to employ more with the opening of another Satti outlet on MH Del Pilar, Manila next month.

One-day millionaires

I still feel a tinge of pain whenever I read about surveys showing that, many OFWs spend their money on frivolous things and continue to live like one-day millionaires.

It is ironic that the OFW heroes who prop up the Philippine economy do not experience true and lasting economic uplift in their lives.

OFWs should be reminded that the more they engage in wanton spending, the more they are keeping themselves trapped in their overseas jobs for a long, long time.

What use is their money if by the time they retire from their work abroad, they are too old and debilitated to enjoy life? If they discover upon their return that their children had grown up and were living their own lives and virtual strangers to them. This was my and Ann's biggest fear.

I have friends who return home with jaw-dropping array of stereos, pianos, cameras and other gadgets, but after about three months, they start selling them, having run out of money. I have another friend, a teacher, who made it a habit to buy those gadgets at half the price. So guess who's the wise one, the local teacher or OFW?

In my book, the worse crime we Filipinos inflict on our OFW relatives is when we turn them into milking cows. I have noted with amusement how many family members—including the extended ones—tend to become afflicted with some sickness after a relative lands a job abroad.

It seems salary grade abroad is inversely proportional to the health index of the family members they leave far behind. Feigned sickness, it seems, is a very effective way of making an OFW fork out money. That is depressing.

Say no to solicitations

OFWs and their families should learn to say no to unnecessary solicitations. If not, they should at least be careful in screening out requests for financial help to see whether they are real, legitimate or a sham.

They are not helping their relatives any if by being abroad, they have turned them into hopeless sloth living on their generosity.

In our case, we really tried to explain to our relatives that they have to cut us some slacks as we start life anew, promising that when we do succeed with our plans, we will give them bigger and meaningful help.

But again, we are the few lucky ones and there are many OFWs out there who return home broke, mangled, raped or in body bags. Those who survive serious ordeal return back to poverty and find their families having fallen apart or having forgotten them.

Apart from saving up, they should also work hard at making good investments in land or businesses to hasten and cushion their return. On the part of Ann, she had seen so many friends retire from work with lots of money only to return abroad a year or two later because they have ran out of money or their business investments have gone wrong.

Until now, when Ann looks at Arizza all grown up, she can't help wonder why a mother like her had left Arizza to relatives at the tender age of two months. Those exciting baby years when she first smiled, uttered her first word and started making her baby steps are gone forever. We were not there to witness those baby milestones and that's that.

But all these pains of her OFW years only embolden us to do better in our businesses so that neither of us will have to go for work abroad again.

So, for OFWs still living the *vida galante*, it is now time to say the party's over and for serious savings to begin.

They dance into the hearts of Fil-Ams

By Peachy Vibal-Guioguio
Contributor

WHEN BAYANIHAN ALUMNA CHONA GENtelizo migrated to the United States and took further studies at the University of California in Los Angeles in the late 1960s, little did she know that she would be involved in redefining Philippine culture and arts in the eyes of Filipino immigrants and their children studying at this well-known American university.

When word spread around that Gentelizo was once a member of the internationally-acclaimed Bayanihan dance group, she was immediately offered to teach Philippine folk dance at the University.

Thus begun what would be her lifelong involvement with re-acquainting the children of Pinoys born and raised in the US or Fil-Ams with Filipino culture and arts through the enervating wonders of Philippine folk dancing. "They were hungry for Philippine culture as well, so the dance session became a dance and culture workshop," Gentelizo told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Dancing builds confidence

She taught at the UCLA for four years and was proud to share that during her years at the University, she saw how Filipinos who were timid and hesitant at first, evolved to become student leaders in their respective organizations. "In fact, it was the first time that a Fil-Am student, who belonged to her dance group, became the president of the UCLA student body," beamed an obviously still elated Gentelizo.

She was convinced in all those years that the Fil-Ams who joined her Bayanihan-inspired classes emerged with the self-confidence and poise—a marked difference from their former withdrawn and reticent selves—after joining the dance group. "They become more confident and, later on, become leaders in their respective school groups," said Gentelizo.

Joji Ramirez-Castro, another Bayanihan dance member, also observes that the Bayanihan could be a life-changing experience.

Castro migrated in San Diego in 1985 and has since become involved in teaching Filipino folk dances to young Fil-Ams through the Philippine Performing Arts and Company that she helped establish.

"It's the parents who normally encourage their children to join; later on, the kids are the ones who would bug their parents to take them to their practices," Ramirez-Castro shared.

"In a way, we have to be thankful to the parents of these kids who have been very supportive of us."

After her four-year stint at UCLA, Gentelizo moved on to teach dance at the University of California Riverside. Eventually, she set up her own dance group in Los Angeles called Sining Ginto. "It started as a church-based organization and since most parishioners are Fil-Ams, we decided to form this group so I can teach their children on their spare time," Gentelizo disclosed.

At present, Sining Ginto has around 120 members in Los Angeles.

Bayanihan spirit lives on

Most of the time, Gentelizo and Ramirez-Castro and their dance troupes collaborate to mount certain projects. "That's when the real Bayanihan spirit comes in," volunteered Ramirez-Castro.

"Since we live apart, the need to network cannot be discounted, she said. "We share our resources. Once, Sining Ginto needed a *rondalla* group for their performance and we readily lend a hand."

On the other hand, Gentelizo, who has availed of early retirement and has more time on her hands, would also choreograph some of Pasacat's dances.

Gentelizo now spends most of her time training the dance instructors while Joji handles folk dance classes twice a week as part of their community services.

In their classes, majority of their dance students are Fil-Ams, but the Bayanihan program also attract a number of White, Blacks and Hispanics students making it a cultural melting pot of sorts.

"I find it heartwarming to see an American dancing to *tinikling*," Gentelizo said.

EX-BAYANIHAN dancer Joji Ramirez-Castro (standing, far right) and members of her group take a break after a performance in San Diego, California.

Their dance students come from all ages; many as young as 4-years-old. And it is these loveable tykes who, according to Ramirez-Castro, are the most applauded during their dance presentations—usually in the "Pasiging" dance performed by the kids.

Wanted: New members

As in any organization, there are challenges that Sining Ginto and Pasacat have to contend with. First is the internal squabbling among its members. "Not everybody will agree with you," Gentelizo said.

But they manage to set aside their differences and apply the Bayanihan slogan of working for the good of the organization.

Second, is the advent of technology. To address this, the dance presentation has to be innovative by "marrying" the old with the new technology without losing the cultural tradition.

And lastly, Gentelizo says there is a decline in new membership so they have to be more aggressive in their recruitment every year. She also feels sad that, based on what she sees in television, Filipinos seem to be losing our cultural heritage as she noticed many of our people trying to be more American than the Americans themselves.

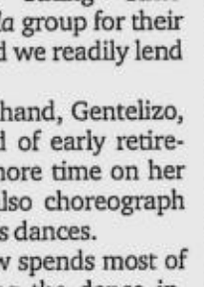
For Ramirez-Castro, being able to work with kids and to initiate them into the wonders of folk dancing can do a lot to one's sense of well-being and is personally fulfilling as well. In fact, her daughter, who is 16, has also become one of the teacher-volunteers of Pasacat.

It had been quite a journey from their early Bayanihan days—both Gentelizo and Ramirez-Castro proudly acknowledging that their experience and training in the country's premiere dance troupe has brought them to where they are today: in the heartland of America teaching what is essentially the best of Filipino art and dance craft to a new generation who hopefully will pass on this quintessence hallowed tradition to their children and succeeding generations as well.

One can say that the Bayanihan spirit lives wherever there is a melody and a dance step that keep on beating in the hearts of every Pinoy.

Not for entertainers only

IMFO
Lourdes Santos Tancinco



THIS YEAR, MOST OF THE Filipino professionals anxiously waiting to work in the United States were disappointed when they were unable to file their petitions for visas in April 2007.

But artists doing concert tours and are contracted to entertain in US events have successfully obtained their own.

Unlike the O1 visas used by artists, the H1B visas are limited and that the US Citizenship and Immigration Service stopped accepting visa petitions the next day after these visas were made available. The reason for rejecting the H1B visa petitions is that, there are only 65,000 visas available in a given fiscal year. For the fiscal year 2007, US employers filed more than 150,000 petitions and more than half of these were returned because of the limited visas for professionals.

Since the H1B visas are very limited, those who want to work in the US may avail of the O1 extraordinary ability alien visa if they meet the eligibility requirements. They may also have the option to avail of the first preference employment-based petition or the EB1.

Extraordinary ability visas are associated with entertainers because of the prominence of most Filipino artists who avail of the Extraordinary Ability Alien visas. It is the most common working visa used by artists.

However, this visa is also available to other individuals who have the qualifications of an extraordinary-ability aliens. This visa is granted and issued to executives, researchers, medical professors, environmental engineers, university professors and athletes, to name a few.

Extraordinary ability alien visa may either be temporary or permanent.

O1 visas are issued to foreigners who have extraordinary abilities in sciences, arts, education, business or athletics. It is also isued most commonly to those who have extraordinary achievements in the television or movie industry.

To qualify for an O1 visa, the applicant must meet the standards.

For individuals with accomplished records in their field, they may want to apply for the employment-based first preference category. This EB1 visa category refers to permanent visas or green cards. They are issued to three classifications of individuals: (1) aliens of extraordinary ability; (2) outstanding professors and researchers; and (3) transferring executives and managers. Only the first category allows self petitions; the second and third classification require a petition to be filed by a US employer.

How extraordinary an applicant may be to obtain an immigrant or permanent visa depends on the availability of records to show "a level of expertise indicating that the individual is one of that small percentage who have risen to the very top of the field of endeavor," and requires evidence that the alien has sustained national or international acclaim and that his or her achievements have been recognized in the field of expertise.

But there are many who may qualify under this category depending on their records of achievements. The artists who have these visas are deserving recognition as extraordinary abilities. However, non-artists especially outstanding researchers, professors and multinational executives and those who have high level of expertise merits this category as well.

COSTUMED man poses before the "Halloween Extravaganza & Procession of the Ghouls," Oct. 26 in The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York. AFP

California fires expose size of problem of US immigrants

SAN DIEGO—OUT OF THE burning brush, from behind canyon rocks, several migrants bolted toward a group of firefighters, chased not by the border police but by the onrush of flames from one of the biggest wildfires this week.

Their appearance startled the firefighters, who let them into their vehicles. But with the discovery of four charred bodies in an area of heavy illegal migration, concern is growing that others may not have survived.

"Their hands were burned, and they were clearly tired and grateful," Capt. Mike Parkes of the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection reported on what his firefighting team saw.

Immigrants from south of the border, many illegal, provide the backbone of menial labor in San Diego, picking fruit, cleaning hotel rooms, sweeping walks and mowing lawns.

The wildfires, one of the biggest natural disasters to strike the county, exposed their often invisible existence in ways that were tragic and sometimes deadly.

The four bodies were found in a burned area in southeastern San Diego County, a region known for intense illegal immigration. It is near Tecate, where a chain securing an evacuated border crossing was cut and people were seen flowing into the United States until the Border Patrol arrived, said Michael J. Fisher, the chief patrol agent in San Diego.

As firefighting continued Friday, makeshift camps for immigrants in the northern part of the county stood largely abandoned. Some immigrants were said to be hiding in even more remote terrain. Others sought help from churches.

"I was pretty scared, we had to leave in the middle of the night and we went to the church," said Juan Santiago, a migrant worker in Rancho Penasquitos, just south of hard-hit Rancho Bernardo.

Terri Trujillo of Rancho Penasquitos, who helps the immigrants, checked on those in the canyons, urging them to leave, too, when she left her house.

Trujillo and others who help the immigrants said they saw several out in the fields as the fires approached and ash fell on them. She said many were afraid to lose their jobs.

"There were Mercedes and Jaguars pulling out, people evacuating, and the migrants were still working," said Enrique Morones, who takes food and blankets to the camps. "It's outrageous."

Some of the illegal workers who sought help from the authorities were arrested and deported. *NYT*

US parents warned: Beware the dark side of Halloween

WASHINGTON—AS SOME 36 million costumed American children prepare to take to the streets of towns and cities around the United States to trick or treat, officials issued stark warnings about the dark side of Halloween.

Horror stories about costumes that go up in flames as a child walks past a Jack O'Lantern, or of sweet buckets and drink mugs with excessive levels of lead, have been making the rounds, justifiably scaring the heebie-geebies out of parents.

Earlier this month, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recalled 63,000 green plastic Frankenstein cups because they contained scarily high levels of lead.

Then last week, 42,000 skull-shaped, candy-filled plastic buckets were pulled from shop shelves. And on Thursday, more than 140,000 plastic buckets with a green silhouette of a witch against a moon were recalled, again because of high lead levels.

Even with those hazards out of the way, the CPSC warned of other dangers associated with Halloween, in particular homemade costumes.

"Parents may not use flame-resistant material to make their children's costumes. We encourage them to use flame-resistant fabrics such as nylon or polyester and avoid billowy costumes that could easily catch fire when the child passes over a lit pumpkin," CPSC spokesperson Patty Davis said.

Davis said that 120,000 "Creepy Capes" were recalled last year before Halloween, because they were a fire hazard.

But no costumes have been recalled this year—despite independent consumer product tests, aired on television, showing popular outfits such as pirate costumes going up in flames within minutes.

Another fright came from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which warned that Halloween is dangerous not only because there are hordes of excited children running around outdoors during the evening rush hour, but also because it has "become an adult holiday, and alcohol consumption is high." *AFP*

Putin compares US missile shield to Cuban crisis

MAFRA, PORTUGAL—RUSSIA'S President Vladimir Putin drew a parallel on Friday between US plans for a missile shield in Europe and the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, widely regarded as the closest the world came to nuclear war.

But the Kremlin leader added that his personal friendship with US President George W. Bush has helped to prevent the latest US initiative from turning into a new global disaster.

"I would remind you how relations were developing in an analogous situation in the middle of the 1960s," he told a news conference after the Russia-EU summit in the Portugal.

"Analogous actions by the Soviet Union when it deployed rockets on Cuba provoked the Cuban missile crisis," Putin added.

"For us, technologically, the situation is very similar. On our borders such threats to our country are being created."

A decision by the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev to send nuclear missiles to Communist ally Cuba put the world on the brink of nuclear war in 1962. After days of dramatic negotiations, Khrushchev agreed to pull out the missiles.

Russia has been outraged by the US decision to deploy a radar in the Czech Republic and interceptor missiles in Poland to avert potential missile strikes from countries like Iran. It sees the plan as an outright threat to its security.

In Washington, State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack strongly rejected Putin's comparison between the US missile shield proposal and the Cuban crisis.

"There are some very clear historical differences between

PUTIN AFP

our plans to deploy a defensive missile system designed to protect against launch of missiles from rogue states such as Iran, and the offensive nuclear capability of the missiles that were being installed in Cuba back in the 1960s," McCormack said.

"They are not historically analogous in any way, shape or form," he added.

In a demonstration of potential consequences, a top Russian military commander said on Friday Moscow could resume the production of short and medium-range nuclear missiles, similar to those which threatened Western Europe in the mid-1980s.

"If there is a political decision to make such a class of missile, then it is obvious that they will be made in Russia in the near future because we have everything we need," Col. Gen. Nikolai Solovtsov said in Moscow.

In an attempt to stop the US plan, Putin has promised to allow Washington use a radar it rents in Azerbaijan, built in the Soviet days to monitor the Indian Ocean zone, or a new radar with even wider range located in Southern Russia. *Reuters*

Oil prices hit record over $92 on weak dollar

NEW YORK—OIL PRICES SHOT TO AN ALL-time high above $92 a barrel on Friday as the tumbling dollar and Nigerian output disruptions helped extend a rally that has lifted prices nearly 30 percent since August.

Worries that supplies may come up short ahead of the Northern Hemisphere winter have fueled the rise, drawing a fresh wave of speculative money from investors.

US crude settled up $1.40 at $91.86 a barrel, off the record $92.22 struck during electronic trading earlier.

Oil was closing in on its inflation-adjusted high of $101.70 seen over the course of April 1980, a year after the Iranian revolution and at the start of the Iran-Iraq war.

London Brent gained $1.21 to $88.69 a barrel.

"Fresh highs are now attracting fresh buying, especially following yesterday's violation of the futures highs just above the $90 level," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of Ritterbusch & Associates in Galena, Illinois.

Prices jumped past $90 a barrel after a US government report on Wednesday showed a sharp drop in crude stocks in the world's biggest energy consumer.

Oil got a boost on Friday after a rebel attack on a oil rig in Opec-member Nigeria operated by Italian firm ENI shut 50,000 barrels per day of production.

Traders were also eyeing new US sanctions against Iran, the No. 4 oil exporter, which is at odds with the UN Security Council over its nuclear program. Washington accuses Tehran's Revolutionary Guard of spreading weapons of mass destruction.

Unprecedented weakness in the US dollar has been another factor supporting dollar-denominated commodities.

In anticipation that the US Federal Reserve may cut interest rates next week, the dollar hit record lows against the euro and a basket of currencies Friday.

Moves by central banks to cut interest rates and pump billions of dollars into financial markets to ease a credit crunch have added fuel to oil's rally.

Oil's drive to record highs has stirred concern from consumer governments, and the administration of President George W. Bush said Friday oil prices were "way too high."

But US Vice President Dick Cheney said the nation's strategic oil stockpiles would not be used to reign in prices.

Analysts say the wider economic problems may be dragging down demand in the giant US market, while there are some signs of a growth slowdown in China, the world's second largest consumer.

China's apparent oil demand grew at the slowest rate in 20 months in September, up just 0.3 percent from a year earlier. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

US diplomat shunning Iraq mission

WASHINGTON—In the largest call-up of US diplomats since the Vietnam War, the State Department is planning to order some of its personnel to serve at the American Embassy in Iraq because of a lack of volunteers. Those designated "prime candidates"—from 200 to 300 diplomats—will be notified Monday that they have been selected for one-year postings to fill the 40 to 50 vacancies expected next year. They will have 10 days to accept or reject the position. If not enough say yes, some will be ordered to go to Iraq and face dismissal if they refuse, Harry Thomas, director general of the Foreign Service, said Friday. *AP*

Japan plans unmanned moon landing by 2015

TOKYO—Japan plans to follow up its first lunar satellite orbit this month by sending an unmanned probe to land on the moon by 2015, news reports said Saturday. The Space Activities Commission of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology decided Friday to aim to land a SELENE-2 probe on the moon's surface by 2015, Japanese major daily Asahi reported Saturday. The 2015 moon probe —expected to cost about 50 billion yen ($437 million)—would consist of an unmanned lander, a rover to study the lunar surface and a small satellite to transfer data, according to the reports. *AP*

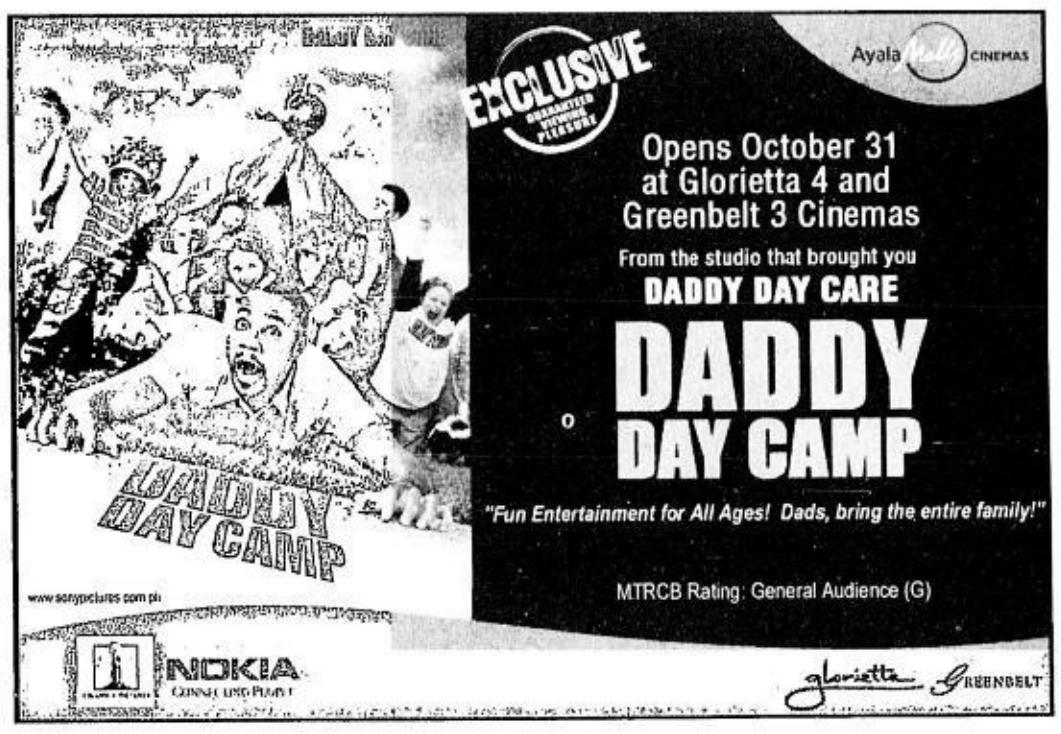
Nobel DNA expert Arthur Kornberg dies at 89

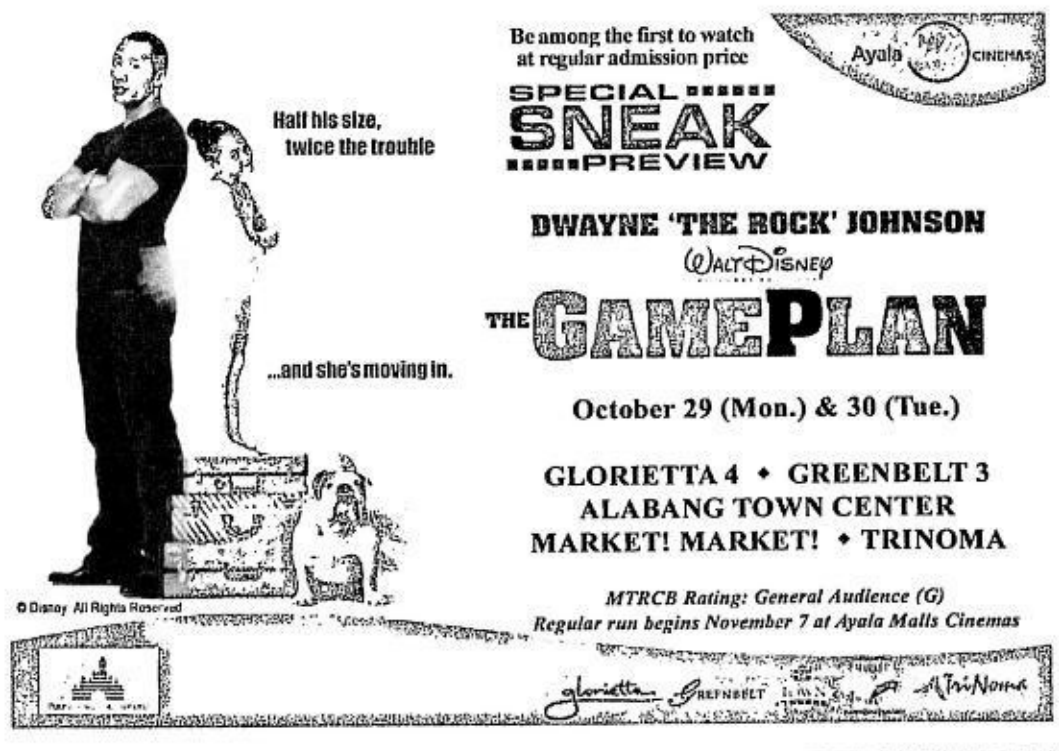
LOS ANGELES—The US biochemist Arthur Kornberg, who won a Nobel prize for shedding light on the construction of human DNA, died on Friday at the age of 89, Stanford University said. "Dr. Kornberg was one of the most distinguished and remarkable scientists in American medicine," the head of the California university's medical school Philip Pizzo said in a statement. Kornberg, a professor of biochemistry at Stanford, won the 1959 Nobel Prize for synthesizing DNA—the genetic material that determines human heredity—in a test tube. He helped discover enzymes that form the building blocks of humans' genetic makeup, paving the way for the development of genetic engineering and drugs for treating cancer and infections. *AFP*

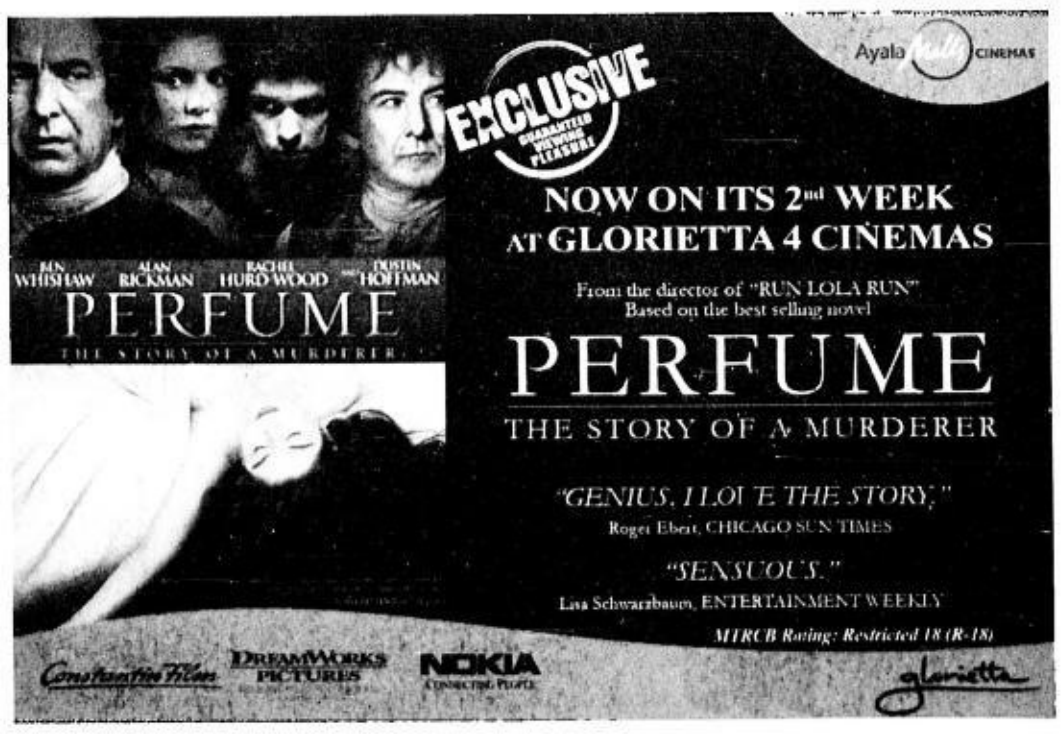
KORNBERG in 1960 photo AP

China to spend $14.5B to clean polluted lake

BEIJING— China has announced a multibillion-dollar plan to clean up a severely polluted lake where an algae infestation forced the suspension of water supplies to millions of people this year. The 108.5 billion yuan ($14.5 billion) plan to clean up Lake Tai, in a densely populated area northwest of Shanghai, should take five years, said a statement on the website of the nearby city of Taizhou. The plan comes amid mounting official urgency about a problem that has left millions of people without clean water and disrupted city water systems. *AP*







PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2007

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Burma police ring Buddhist sites anew

RANGOON—BURMA'S JUNTA SENT ARMED POlice to ring key Buddhist sites on Friday, the end of an annual period of monastic retreat, to prevent any resurgence of last month's monk-led protests, the biggest uprising in two decades.

A Reuters reporter was prevented from taking photographs of the extra security around the gilded Shwedagon Pagoda, the holiest shrine in Burma (also known as Myanmar) and the rallying point for dissident monks who started their protest marches exactly one month ago.

The dissent had kicked off six weeks earlier with sporadic civilian demonstrations against shock fuel price rises.

Police were also out in force at Sule Pagoda in central Rangoon, where the protest marches against deepening poverty and 45 years of military rule in the former Burma used to end.

There were no barricades, although police had coils of barbed wire at the ready to seal off the streets, a tactic used when soldiers were sent in last month to disperse tens of thousands of demonstrators.

State media say 10 people were killed in the crackdown, but Western governments say the real toll is likely to be far higher.

Nearly 3,000 people were arrested nationwide, although all but a few hundred have been freed, state media say, and curfews imposed during the crackdown have been lifted, suggesting the generals are confident they have things under control.

Official newspapers also gave more details of Thursday's meeting between detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and Aung Kyi, a deputy minister and retired major general named as a go-between after a visit by UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari.

The New Light of Myanmar, the junta's main mouthpiece, said the meeting at a government guest house had lasted 75 minutes.

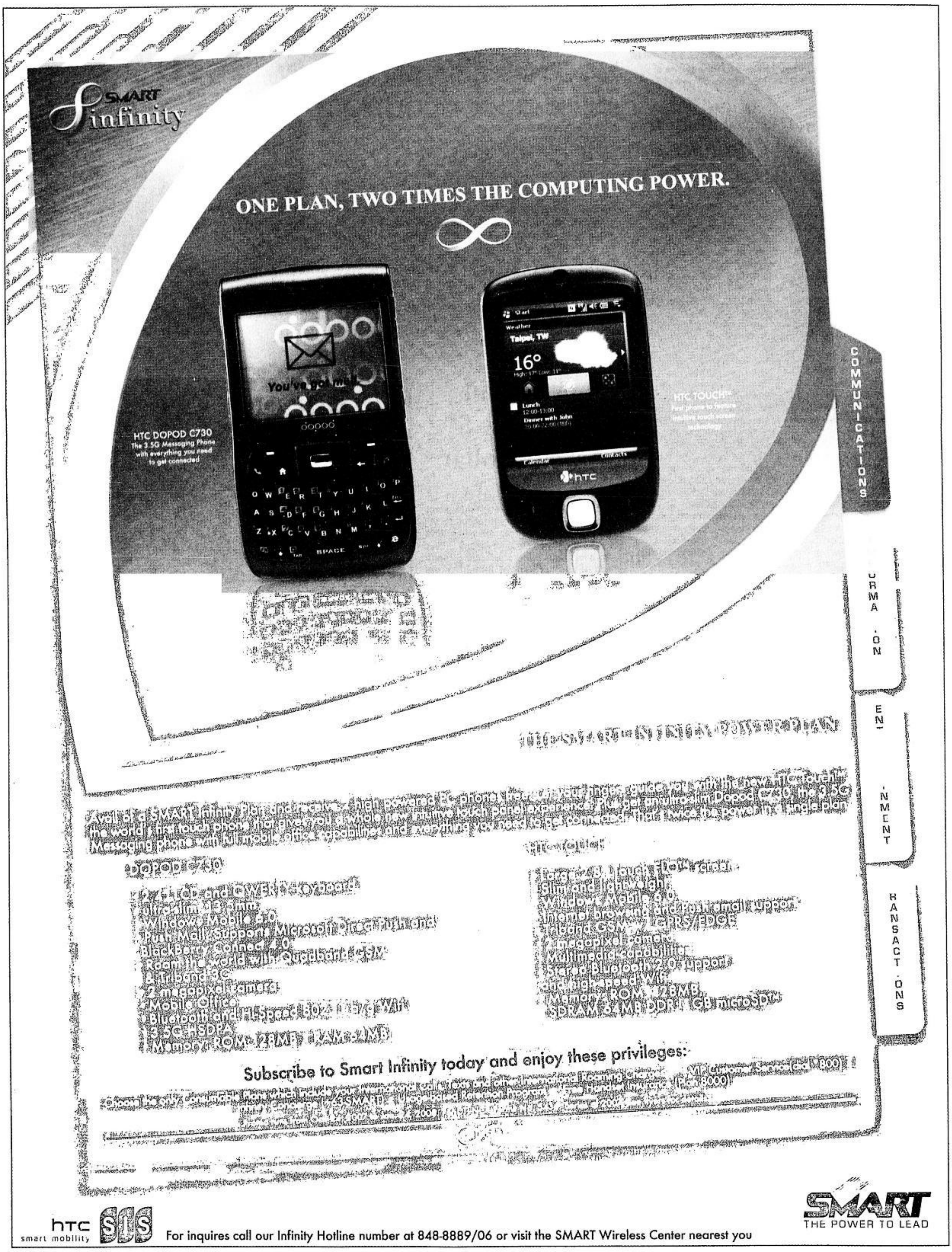
It published a picture of the pair sitting either side of a table.

Aung Kyi wears a smile, but Suu Kyi, who has spent 12 of the last 18 years in detention, appears stony faced.

Gambari, who is due back in Burma in the first week of November, welcomed the talks, but stressed that the appointment on Aung Kyi as liaison was only a first step.

"This should lead to the early resumption of the dialogue that leads to very concrete and tangible results," he told reporters after meeting Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda in Tokyo.

People in Rangoon also hoped the meeting might herald the start of meaningful talks between the generals and Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy won a 1990 election landslide but was denied the chance to take power. *Reuters*



WHAT'S INSIDE

Dice-K out to earn his pay /A28

Sunday SPORTS

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Welcoat whips Ginebra; Magnolia takes on Coke

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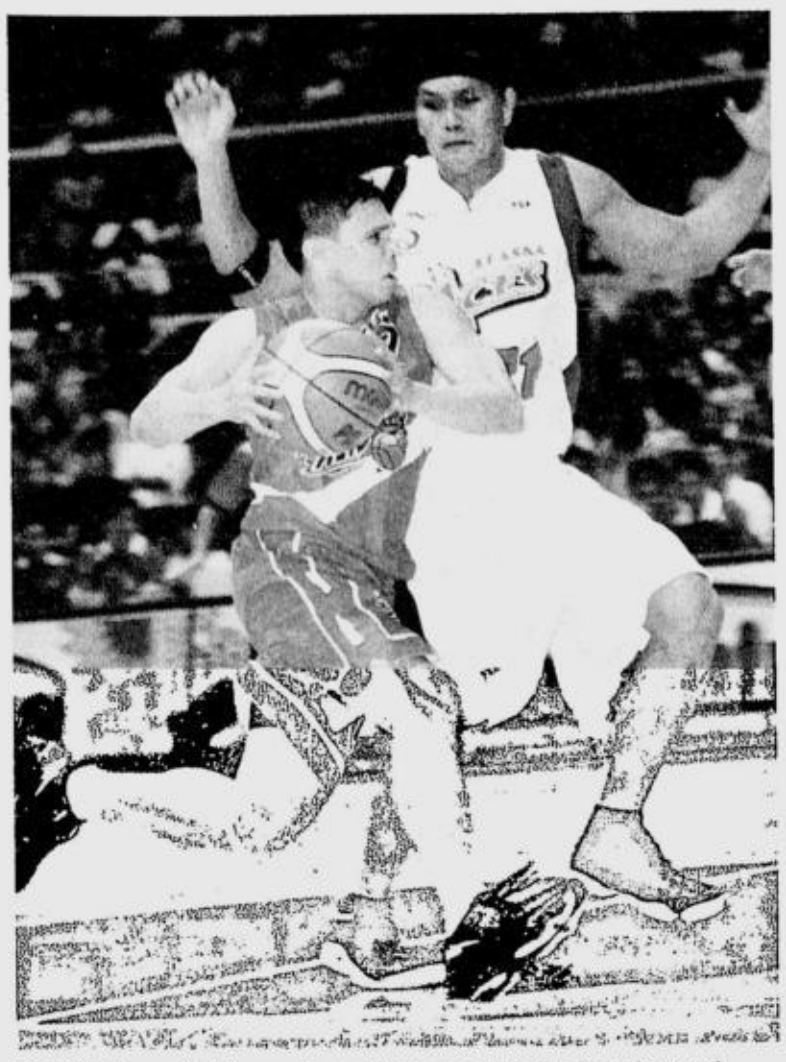

EGAY Echavez (left), seen here driving past Alaska Aces forward Reynel Hugnatan, will lead a Coca-Cola backcourt that will try to measure up against a talented Magnolia counterpart. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:30 p.m.—Magnolia vs Coca-Cola
6:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Talk 'N Text

By Musong R. Castillo

NIC BELASCO PUMPED IN 17 POINTS and grabbed a conference-high 19 rebounds and Welcoat scored the game's last 16 points to hammer out a resounding 82-64 trashing of Barangay Ginebra yesterday in a Smart-PBA Philippine Cup road game at the Capiz Gym in Roxas City.

The Dragons held a precarious 66-64 lead when Belasco and Jay-R Reyes combined to unleash a run that left the Kings wondering what hit them.

Welcoat barged into the win column after two tries while Ginebra dropped its second straight game after opening the tournament with a win.

The defending champions actually trailed by as many as 22 points but fought back into contention only to fall prey to basketball's version of a power outage.

Meanwhile, Magnolia and Talk 'N Text clash against separate foes today, with the Beverage Masters hoping to get back on track and the Phone Pals going for a second straight win at the Araneta Coliseum.

Magnolia battles Coca-Cola in the 4:30 p.m. game with both teams coming off losses, while the Phone Pals seek to add to Sta. Lucia's woes in the 6:30 p.m. game.

Purefoods rallied from 17 points down in the first quarter and from 10 points back in the fourth to nip the Beverage Masters last Friday, 93-90, a loss that did not speak well of the character of the pre-tournament favorites.

The loss cost the Beverage Masters the solo lead and cast a doubt somewhat on their inability to win close games with a star-studded lineup that needs to share time and the ball on the floor.

Talk 'N Text is also at 2-1, its only loss coming at the hands of the Tender Juicy Giants, who also rallied before posting a 112-96 victory in Dumaguete two Saturdays ago.

Phone Pals coach Derrick Pumaren has so far succeeded in changing the attitude of his team by asking them to be as aggressive as they could be in the face of the relaxed rules being implemented.

That was evident in a 111-102 decision of Barangay Ginebra Wednesday night, when the Phone Pals held their own against one of the tournament's more physical teams.

And it was a victory that allowed them to bounce back from that humiliating setback to Purefoods, a loss which Pumaren later on described as like being "raped and mangled."

"I just told them to stop crying and asking for fouls and play their hearts out on defense," Pumaren had said.

The scores:

WELCOAT 82—Belasco 17, Wainwright 15, Reyes 12, Devance 8, Lopez 8, Baguion 7, Araña 5, Gelig 6, Ibañes 2, Dulay 0.

BARANGAY GINEBRA 64—Mamaril 17, Helterbrand 14, Macapagal 7, Reavis 6, Tubid 5, Aquino 4, Escalona 4, Salvacion 4, Abarrientos 3, Artadi 0, Lao 0, Holper 0.

Quarters: 24-11; 42-30; 62-46; 82-64

COKE HERALDS THE COMING OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is the most anticipated and celebrated occasion in every Filipino home. As early as when the "ber" months come around, indications of the coming Christmas season begin to surround us, drowning us all in an atmosphere of immense delight and gladness.

It is not surprising that Moms always make Christmas mealtimes special for the family – she adorns her home with beautiful Christmas décor, brings out her best silverware, painstakingly cooks the family's favorite dishes, and makes sure her family experiences the specialness of the occasion. Indeed, the gathering together during special occasions of every family member—from sons and daughters, to parents and grandparents, down to whole sets of cousins, aunts, uncles and even family friends—is what distinguishes Filipinos from the other peoples of the world.

Naturally, no Filipino Christmas table is truly complete without a bottle of ice-cold Coca-Cola Litro. For decades, Coke has been making every Filipino meal more special as it enhances the taste of our Christmas food, adds laughter to the conversations, and allows family members to catch up with each other . And to make Christmas even more exciting for every family, starting October 21, Coca-Cola will be rewarding, through its Coca-Cola Kasalo sa Pasko Promo, those moms who make Coke Litro part of their meals.

Consumers just need to buy Coke Litro and look under the cap to see if it's one of the winning Kasalo Caps. They have to present ONE (1) Winning Kasalo Cap plus FOUR (4) Red Litro Caps, to redeem their special Kasalo Spoon and Fork collectibles at participating sari-sari stores and public markets nationwide.

With sets of Kasalo Spoons and Forks, Coke Litro, and all your special Christmas meals, you're sure to have a splendid dining table that sings and dances in a medley of tastes, smells and colors!

Now you top everything off with the love and laughter that comes from your family and the thought that Coke will be bringing you even more surprises this season and what you'll have indeed is the merriest Christmas celebration in the whole world.

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SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

UST, Ateneo eye share of volley lead

GAMES TODAY (*The Arena*)
3 p.m.—Letran vs UST
5 p.m.—Lyceum vs Ateneo

THE PATH LOOKS EASY BUT NONE OF THE preseason favorites are taking things lightly.

University of Santo Tomas and Ateneo, two teams rated highly before the start of the tournament, battle teams that have no win to show so far in the Shakey's V-League Second Conference at The Arena in San Juan today.

A win for both teams will allow them to keep in step with rampaging dark horse San Sebastian College, which has gone to a 3-0 (win-loss) start so far.

The Tigresses, who take on Letran, and the Lady Eagles, who battle Lyceum, are tied with the idle Adamson Lady Falcons in second place with 2-1 slates.

Against the Lady Knights, the Tigresses are expected to build their game plan around Venus Bernal, Mary Jean Balse, Angeli Tabaquero and guest player Suzanne Roces.

Letran, with Johanna Carpio reinforcing the team, has dropped its first three games.

Like UST, Ateneo, which underwent tremendous buildup, including a three-week training stint in Thailand, is tipped to dominate Lyceum in the 5 p.m. main match of the tournament sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and organized by Sports Vision.

Expect Thai ace Lithawat Kesinee to spearhead the Lady Eagles' bid again with support to come from Ma. Rosario Soriano, Denise Acevedo and Patricia Taganas.

Hapee ties for lead; RP 5 wins

GAMES TUESDAY (*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
2 p.m.—Bacchus vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—Toyota Balintawak vs RP Team

By Jasmine W. Payo

HAPEE TOOTHPASTE SURVIVED San Mig Coffee by the slimmest of margins even without Fil-Am star Gabe Norwood in the offensive equation.

The Complete Protectors turned to Larry Rodriguez, who buried a three-pointer with 3.7 seconds left to secure Hapee's 80-79 victory in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

"The boys reacted to the situation," said Hapee coach Jun Noel. "(Norwood) is trying hard to adjust. Hopefully, he'll be on line with the team earlier."

Several veterans stepped up in place of Norwood, who finished with only three points, as Hapee gained a share of the lead at 2-0 with idle Toyota Balintawak.

Earn Saguindel fired a career-high 19 points, highlighted by a triple that tied the game at 75-all with 2:52 minutes remaining, while Reed Juntilla shot nine of his 21 markers in the final canto.

Earlier, ex-pro Alex Crisano again played the starring role, lifting the Harbour-RP Team to its second straight victory with a 105-71 rout of Bacchus Energy Drink.

Crisano, the former Barangay Ginebra center, powered the national crew's scoring charge in the first half to finish with 19 points on top of eight rebounds and two blocks.

Coach Junel Baculi stressed there's a lot more to draw out from his young squad, which joined the tournament as part of its training for the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand this December.

AL MAGPAYO (No. 6) of San Mig Coffee gets the ball accidentally thumped on his head by teammate Neil Raneses in a scramble for possession. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

"We can play better," he said. "We have to improve on our defense."

The scores:

First Game

RP TEAM 105—Crisano 19, Bautista 14, Cabahug 14, Castro 14, Cruz 13, Salangsang 10, Belga 8, Dela Cuesta 6, Alonzo 4, Chan 3, Tan 0, Fernandez 0.

BACCHUS 71—Fampulme 12, Mondragon 9, Guevarra 8, Cagoco 8, Martinez 7, Raymundo 6, Dizon 5, Llagas 5, Dela Cruz 4, Mendoza 3, Labagala 2, Viardo 2, Thiele 0, Williams 0.

Quarters: 34-28, 63-44, 85-59, 105-71

Second Game

HAPEE 80—Juntilla 21, Saguindel 19, Rodriguez 13, Grijaldo 8, Hugnatan 7, Mercado 4, Norwood 3, Espiritu 2, Viray 2, Borboran 1, Daa 0.

SAN MIG COFFEE 79—Magpayo 19, Custodio 18, Rañeses 11, Dela Peña 9, Saldua 5, Bolocon 4, Arao 4, Dalafu 3, Sorongon 3, Del Rosario 2, Luanzon 1, Pascual 0.

Quarters: 23-17, 41-41, 58-61, 80-79

Pagunsan falters as third round halted anew

JAKARTA—JUVIC PAGUNSAN COMpleted his second round just a stroke off the lead but the Filipino shotmaker was two over par for the day when the third round of the Pertamina Indonesia President Invitational was again suspended due to inclement weather Saturday.

Pagunsan stood at 9 under after 11 holes, four shots off the pace, following back-to-back bogeys at the start of his homeward trip when organizers called off play at 3:28 p.m. due to lightning.

A total of 54 players will resume the third round on Sunday at 6:40 a.m. local time.

Pagunsan followed up his 66 with a 67 earlier and remained a shot off a four-way tie for the halfway lead shared by American Anthony Kang (67-65), England's Lee Westwood (67-65), Neven Basic of Australia (65-67) and Lu Weio-chih of Taiwan (70-62).

Jerome Delariarte (71-69) and Gerald Rosales (72-70) joined Pagunsan for the weekend play with Mars Pucay missing the cut with rounds of 72-74. Tony Lascuña (75-72) and Marlon Dizon (74-76) also failed to advance.

Delariarte was able to finish his third round with a 70 and was running 27th at six-under 210. Rosales was one over with six holes left

Kang and Thai young gun Prom Meesawat both stood at 13 under and battling for the top spot when play was suspended.

Prom, who is ranked 25th on the Asian Tour's UBS Order of Merit, chalked up five birdies against a lone bogey with five holes to play. Kang was one under through 11 holes in the $350,000 Asian Tour event.

Ryder Cup star Lee Westwood battled the winds as he was even-par after 11 holes on 12 under alongside India's Harmeet Kahloon. *Asian Tour News*

Eagles, Tams set Unigames cage title tiff

By Cedelf P. Tupas,
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—ANDY MARK Barroca sparked Far Eastern University past shorthanded West Negros College, 93-88, yesterday and into the men's basketball finals of the 12th Philippine University Games here.

The Tamaraws survived the hot-shooting Mustangs, thanks to Barroca, who capped a 23-point explosion with a running shot with six seconds remaining.

The victory set up an all-UAAP title clash after the Ateneo Eagles weathered a late Angeles University Foundation uprising for an 81-74 triumph.

"There are no more secrets between us and FEU so we'll just have to play our best," said Ateneo coach Norman Black, whose team split its two games against the Tamaraws in the last UAAP

Ranged against a WNC team left with only seven players in the aftermath of a brawl against St. Francis, the Tamaraws exploited their size advantage while Barroca and Paul Sanga scored at will for a 37-22 cushion.

But Alfie Villariza, barely 5-foot-6, and Vengie Vergara gave the Mustangs a lifeline, combining for 13 of the team's 15 triples to cut the gap, 86-87, with 3:26 left.

Villariza went on to finish with a game-high 30 points, while Vergara added 25 that included seven triples.

Nonoy Baclao shot a team-high 18 points for the Eagles, who also blew a double-digit advantage as AUF guards Crisper Ingal and Joshua Bumanlag waxed hot from the perimeter.

Jai Reyes, whose free throws wrapped up the win with 36 seconds left, chipped in 17 markers for the Eagles, who placed third in the 2005 tournament.

In men's volleyball, De La Salle-Dasmariñas took the first finals berth after walloping host St. La Salle, 25-23, 25-22, 25-21. University of Sto. Tomas and FEU were still playing for the remaining finals slot.

BARROCA plays hero for the Tamaraws. ANDY ALVAREZ

Tall Iranians oust NBC-Spring cagers

PENANG, MALAYSIA—NBC-Spring Cooking Oil bowed to the tall Iranian youth team, 88-100, Thursday and bowed out of the 2007 Penang Chief Minister Cup-Asian basketball invitational tournament at the Han Chiang Indoor Stadium here.

The Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla put up a good fight and appeared to have a good chance of surviving the elimination round despite the absence of injured ex-pro Nelson Asaytono as they trailed by only three, 67-70, going into the payoff period.

But the Filipinos began to crumble when Nani Epondulan, Danny Capobres, EJ Feihl, Nino Marquez and Dondon Villamin started fouling out one after the other, enabling the Iranians to pull away and advance to the semis.

Informed of the Champion-backed squad's loss, Padilla said: "Despite the defeat, I'm proud of the boys because they fought hard and gave their best."

Marquez earned some consolation for NBC-Spring by winning the three-point competition, knocking in 12 of 15 attempts.

Thailand's national team nipped IBL's SM-Britama, 81-78, while Malaysia edged Tianjin of the Chinese Basketball League, 77-76, in the other games.

Menthols eye history

THE MIGHTY MENTHOLS (Batch 04) go for a piece of history in the Xavier Alumni Basketball League (XABL) when they collide with Batch 99 today in the deciding Game 3 of their championship series at the Xavier School gym.

The Menthols, backed by Mighty Corporation, are hoping to become the youngest team ever to win the championship when they clash with Batch 99 at 9 a.m.

Expected to provide firepower for the Mighty Menthols are PBL team manager Jean Alabanza, Randy Chua and Dexter Lee.

Banking on their athleticism and torrid outside shooting, the Mighty Menthols topped the elims to gain an outright finals berth.

The Mighty Menthols took Game 1, 80-72, but Batch 99 cagers, bannered by Terrence Tang, brother of PBL and La Salle hotshot TY, leveled their best-of-three title series by taking Game 2 in overtime, 95-93.

Batangueña swims to seven POF golds

By June Navarro

NAGA CITY—A PALARONG PAMbansa veteran created ripples in the pool in the Bicol-Southern Tagalog qualifying games of the Philippine Olympic Festival yesterday at the Metro Naga Sports Complex here.

Christine Grace Tan raised her golden collection to seven after lording it over in the girls' 200-meter individual medley, 200m butterfly and 50m freestyle.

The Trace College High School scholar from Lipa City also snared the gold in the 100m freestyle, 100m backstroke, 400m IM and 800m freestyle on Friday.

A Palaro campaigner since 2004, the 14-year-old Tan could achieve the maximum total of 11 gold medals with wins in the girls' 200m backstroke, 100m breaststroke, 200m freestyle and 400m freestyle today.

The 5-foot-6 Tan was discovered by swimming scouts in the Palaro held in Koronadal City, Southern Cotabato, early this year after anchoring Batangas to the 4x100m freestyle relay gold.

Sharing the limelight with Tan was Michaelmars Danila, who produced three more golds for Naga City in the pool after his conquest in the 200m IM, 200m butterfly and 50m freestyle on Thursday.

The 19-year-old younger brother of former RP tanker Liza Danila ruled the 100m freestyle, 100m backstroke and 400m IM for boys' 15-and-above to keep the host city within striking distance of leaders Laguna and Cavite.

Laguna took the overall lead from Cavite with wins in archery, wrestling and swimming that raised its gold-silver-bronze medal haul to 39-32-19.

Cavite, which reigned supreme in athletics, has a 30-19-16 tally while Naga boasts a 20-25-30 medal hoard.

Joshua Desamero, 14, topped the 400m IM and the 1,500m to head Laguna's pool onslaught while John Matthew Magpantay and R-Vee Zotomayor produced a pair of golds in archery.

Laguna also had golden performances in wrestling through Alejandro Bartolome (55 kilograms), Ariel Samadio (74kg) and Gilbert Ombao (96kg).

Johanna Erika Borja (girls' 100m backstroke), Marvie Borja (girls' 400m IM) and the 4 x 200m freestyle relay squads in the girls' and boys' divisions provided the other golds for Laguna.

SPORTSWATCH

Critrium goes to Dagupan

THE CYCLING-CRAZY PROVINCE OF PANgasinan is the next stop of the Hitachi National Critrium Grand Prix when the Mayor Alipio Fernandez Jr. Cup hits the road in Dagupan City today.

Mayor Fernandez and city administrator Alvin Fernandez are expected to roll out the welcome mat to the cyclists and fans from all over Luzon for the fifth leg of the eagerly-awaited circuit races.

C. Lhuillier leads MSSL

CEBUANA LHUILLIER TRIES TO TIGHTEN its hold of the top spot in the current fall season of the of the Manila Slo-pitch Softball League (MSSL) when it plays its last two games this weekend against the Gorillas (4-3) and winless BYOB (0-7).

With its 7-1 win-loss record, Cebuana Lhuillier is already assured of one of the top two slots with Pera Padala (7-3) still awaiting the Gorillas win its last two games.

Fistorama airs at 10 p.m.

FISTORAMA AIRS IN ITS NEW TIME SLOT starting at 10 tonight on NBN 4. The weekly boxing show features four amateur bouts.

Fistorama's bouts are part of the PCSO Amateur Boxing Championships held every two months at the Cantada Sports Center in Bagumbayan, Taguig City. Fistorama is shown worldwide through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel, ANC/Kapamilya TV.

Arenas gives Spalding a lift

THE CANDID BLOG OF NBA STAR GILBERT Arenas is giving Spalding a boost.

Spalding vice president for marketing Dan Touhey said a post about a Spalding promotion, where the winner of an essay contest would win a backboard, rim and balls, was great advertising for the company. Spalding basketball and backboards are distributed in the Philippines by Proline Sports Inc.

ISF donates 10 softball kits

THE INTERNATIONAL SOFTBALL FEDERAtion, through the Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines, has donated 10 softball starter's kits to different schools and provinces in the country.

ISF president Don Porter made the turnover to Asaphil president Jean Henri Lhuillier and former head Harry Angping at the EDSA-Shangri-la Hotel Wednesday.

Tour king Bonzo runs

MODESTO BONZO, THE 1976 TOUR champion, is running for chairman of Barangay Poblacion in Sual, Pangasinan.

Bonzo, who retired with a spotless record as a Philippine National Police officer last year, is currently the vice president of the Philippine National Cycling Association.

Nat'l Bakbakan dangles P15M

COMPETITION AMONG THE COUNTRY'S major gamefowl breeders heats up this week as the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) National Bakbakan 10-stag derby starts in different venues .

"Due to the inclusion of nine more breeders associations this year, we are expecting to surpass last year's field of 1, 273 entries," said NFGB president Ricoy Palmares.

Upcoming eliminations will be held on Oct. 30 at Malvar Sports Complex (Batangas) and Araneta Coliseum (Lagba group). Likewise, derbies will be staged on Nov. 3 at Vargas Sports Center, Bacolor Cockpit, New Tarlac Coliseum, Puerto Princesa City, Ormoc City, Tagbilaran City, Iloilo Coliseum and Pasig Square Square Garden.

Aside from the whopping P15 million guaranteed prize, the Thunderbird Championship Belt will be awarded to the champion association, said Manny Berbano, NFGB marketing director.

Heritage Cup up

THE UNITED GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASsociations (UGBA) presents the first Heritage Cup National 9-Stag Derby 2007, an intercockpit tilt with P10 million at stake.

Elimination rounds of the event backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 will be held at Edwards Coliseum Nueva Ecija (Oct. 30, GB-One group) ; Tayabas Sports Complex (Nov. 3, QG-BA); Cagayan De Oro Golden City Coliseum (Nov. 4, MNGBA); San Juan Coliseum (Nov. 5 and 7, LGBA) ; Talisay City Negros Cockpit (Nov. 9, Negros group); Ilagan Cockpit Arena, Isabela & San Manuel Cockpit Arena (Nov. 9 and 16, NELBA); Gallera De Mandaue (Nov. 23, Cegba); San Juan Coliseum (Nov. 10, 17, 24 and 26, Natl elims); Matina Gallera (Nov. 20 and 22, Salpukan group) and Panguil Bay Osamiz (Nov. 23).

CAGE CHAMPS: Smart 2007 Barkadahan five-time champion Team CCare beat Sales team, 2-1, in their best-of 3 finals last Oct. 9 at The Army Gym, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City. Standing (from left): Raffy Loader, Oliver Ornido, Art Lim, June Wenceslao, Frank Macasling, Berns Bailon-coach, Leo Armintia, Lloyd Esmeria, Dennis Tizon, Roland Garcia, Anthony Reyes, Maffin Fabian. Seated (from left): Ferdie Macarulay, Glenmarc Antonio, Andong Abanes, Jhun Herrera-MVP, Nick Salgado and Tony Catamora.

Four-way race looms in Tumbok tilt today

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITE—A FOUR-way race among six top imports looms today in the third running of the Tumbok Cup set over 1,500 meters at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

Colt Midnight King and stayer Traditional are among the favorites in the race that offers P180,000 to the champion. Post time is around 5:25 p.m.

Val Dilema handles Midnight King, while Ferdinand Raquel partners the three-year-old filly Traditional even as Lady Line and Serious Susie are tipped to figure prominently in the money.

Ace Jonathan Hernandez, winner of the PSA's Jockey of the year award the last two years, will steer Lady Line, while Patty Dilema will be Serious Susie's rider. Please Do, under RG Fernandez, and Mamaya, who will have RH Silva aboard, are the other entries.

The race slightly favors Midnight King, though, since he can have the rail to himself, starting from the No. 1 post, and in the absence of other certified speedballs, could set a pace where he could be comfortable in.

Serious Susie, meanwhile, has competed in bigger races and has slugged it out against even more formidable foes in the past.

San Andres garners Pro Open plum

KENNETH SAN ANDRES' TIME TO SHINE has come.

Proving that his 4th leg victory was no fluke, San Andres mastered 10-time champion Glenn Aguilar in the premier Pro Open for the second straight time in the 5th round of the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association National Motocross Championship series at the Fast Track Circuit in Taguig City.

SAN ANDRES

San Andres, who used to lurk in the shadow of his idol Aguilar, pulled off a double victory in the centerpiece Pro Open over the former FIM Asian champion.

"I'm really excited to be able to show all the learning that I acquired throughout the years," said San Andres, who is backed by Oakley, Bridgestone, HJC Helmets, Fox, Renthal, Alpine Star, Polisports, Inside Racing Magazine, JBS Motorcycle Parts and Accessories.

The many-time national junior champion and Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) awardee actually trailed Aguilar in both the first and second heats of the Pro Open.

But San Andres made his move in the 8th lap of the first heat as he overtook Aguilar, before pulling away a hundred meters ahead of the many time Rider of the Year.

Kenneth's father Junjun San Andres made it a double victory after ruling the Veterans Class, with Gimo Gonzales placing second.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Smashing Succes (5), Saving Grace (4), Astimegoesby (3), Terry Toon (6)
Race 2—(Tri)—Bundok Peninsula (2), Burst Of Speed (4), Ingay Ingay (3)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Drame Belle (6), Chariot Of Fire (5), Great Emma (3), Bush Carnival (1)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Selectee (4), Stream Time (3), Alam Mo Na Yan (6), Archer (2), Tervalac (5)
Race 5—(Tri)—Copper Dew (2), Iron Heart (5), Palm It Off (1)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Nitty Gritty (4), Iron Hand (2), Dullish Dream (5), Bold Water (3)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Traditional (6), Lady Line (2), Midnight King (1), Serious Susie (4)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Stallone (8), Sweet Talk (7), Mr. Diego (4), EJ's Magic (6), Gallant Warrior (5)
Race 9—(Tri)—Lady Commander (3), Stoops (1), When We're Flying (5)
Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—Ilocos Pride (6), Magic Key (1), Money For Rap (2), Run Like D'Wind/Air D'Truth (3)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Striking Car (5), Without Warning (5), China Girl (2), Summer Rain (3)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Prima Vera (8), Kimagure (7), Virgin Hill (6), Loodline (2), Imperial Manila (3)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Madel Line (2), Queen Of Gaia (5), Mr. Gee (11), Caden Dance (3), Sir Benjo (9), Prospector's Car (2)

Miss LilyPilly wins

MISS LILYPILLY RULED THE fifth Juanito Macaraig Cup held last Sunday at the Sta. Ana Park.

Piloted by Pati Dilema, Miss LilyPilly flexed just enough muscle to win the race in honor of the late star jockey-trainer, clocking 1:34.6 for the 1,500-meter journey.

The annual race is being sponsored by noted businessman-sportsman William C. Dagan, one of the most-respected horse owners in the local racing industry.

Though unable to race his horses for the past three years due to an allegedly flawed Philippine Racing Commission directive, Dagan has lived up to his commitment to stage the Macaraig Cup.

ERILYN DAGAN (fourth from left), daughter of race sponsor William Dagan (sixth from left), and Mila Maracai, award the trophy to a representative of Rudy Mendoza, owner of Miss LilyPilly.

Thai to watch in V-League

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

IT WAS A TIGHT day for me, but my good friend Rhea Navarro, a director of Sports Vision which organizes the very popular Shakey's V-League insisted that I watch last Sunday's most awaited elimination round game between the inaugural and 2007 first conference champion UST and Ateneo, which had just attended a three-week camp in Thailand.

I've always enjoyed watching a good game of volleyball and my trip to the Arena in San Juan was worth canceling my previous commitments.

Ateneo, following three seasons of woeful stints in the country's premier volleyball league for women, unleashed a formidable team built around Thai import Kesinee Lithawat, a 26-year-old two-time SEA Games campaigner who, according to Ateneo Sports Director Ricky Palou, is taller than him at 5-11 and has a vaunted highest reach of 290cm (spike) and 282cm (2 hands block).

Palou had earlier declared that power and might will no longer be the domain of San Sebastian College import Bulaee Jaroensri, who was last conference's MVP, because Kesinee, according to her Thai agents, is more powerful than Bualee.

It turned out that Palou wasn't bragging.

* * *

I've never known PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios to be a deeply religious and prayerful man.

That's why I had to call him to check if it was true that he had successfully introduced a spiritual dimension to the daily routine at the PBA office in Libis, Quezon City.

Sonny laughed when I asked him if the daily ritual was meant to exorcise evil spirits from the office.

The rituals, according to my source, were done between 9 and 9:30 every morning and involved all the employees in the PBA office, regardless of rank.

Everybody prayed as one, with each member of the staff being given a chance to lead in whatever fashion he desires.

* * *

The sound of loud Ati-Atihan drumbeats woke me up yesterday morning and for a while I thought it was fiesta time in our parish.

When I looked to see what the fanfare was all about, I realized that it was the last campaign day for the barangay elections scheduled tomorrow.

Among the yellow vested campaigners with the Ati-Atihan band, I recognized a number of sports personalities: broadcaster Dick Ildefonso, former UST coach Nel Parado and former PBL executive director Dodols Amon, who are all running for Kagawad at Barangay West Triangle where I reside.

Gosh, I thought, now I will have to make changes in my list.

* * *

Until Dick and company came knocking at my door, I had intended to vote straight for the men in green, another party led by the tried and tested Beng Sia, who is running for barangay captain and Louie Aquino, my former teammate in the last barangay elections.

Now I will have to reconsider. Dick is an old friend, Dodols is a former teammate, while Onel is a neighbor.

My granddaughter Daniella, aware of my predicament, warned me that in no way should I scratch greenie Timmy Ligon, who is the father of her best friend, from the list.

My neighbors also reminded me of the advantages of having greenie Baby Gutierrez, in the barangay hall.

It is Beng Sia versus the Yellows' Rene Romero, who worked in QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte's office, for barangay captain.

WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tañamor itching to debut; Payla, Basadre eye last 16

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer Libre

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—TWO-TIME Olympian Harry Tañamor said that he is ready to compete in the World Boxing Championships despite a schedule which forced him to watch from the sidelines for one week.

"I'm ready. My hands are itching for action," said Tañamor, the country's bet in the light-flyweight class.

Tañamor gets to box on Sunday versus Nasir Mohammad of Wales. To keep his fighting form, Tañamor practices daily at the University of Illinois-Chicago Physical Education building along with compatriots flyweight Violito Payla and lightweight Genebert Basadre, who advanced to the round of 32.

Payla aims for a seat in the round of 16 against Khalid Said of England Saturday, while Basadre tackles Canadian Ibrahim Kamel.

Boxers need to reach the round of eight in order to gain slots to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"We're doing everything to make the Olympics; our remaining boxers know their mission very well," said national head coach Patricio Gaspi, who also thanked the Filipino-American community here for their support.

Payla debuted with a masterful referee-stopped-contest-outscored win over Andrew Selby of Wales, while Basadre, a bronze medalist in the Doha Asian Games, defeated Bulgarian Ognyan Kolev, 19-13.

"It's going to be very tough for us considering the world-class field, but we are still on target," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap) president Manny T. Lopez.

Lopez earlier said the RP-PLDT-Smart team is looking to send two boxers to Beijing through this tournament, which attracted a record number of boxers from 120 countries.

Meanwhile, alarmed by three cases of defections, International Amateur Boxing Association (Aiba) president Ching Kuo-Wu exhorted Friday competing teams to behave like true and decent sportsmen in the ongoing World Boxing Championships here.

Looking dapper in a blue suit, Wu met team officials, coaches and trainers after breakfast at the Palmer House Hilton at Monroe and Wabash Streets here a day after two members of the Ugandan boxing team and an Armenian boxers went missing.

Though he didn't identify the boxers and the countries involved, Wu told some 200 participants including the RP-PLDT-Smart boxing team gathered at the mess hall that what transpired was regrettable.

According to USA Today, those confirmed missing were Ugandan team captain John Baptist Ntgete and Phillip Adyak. The Armenian defector remains unidentified.

Powerhouse Cuba decided not to compete in the slugfest following fears that some of its boxers will try to defect during the event.

VIOLITO Payla (left) of the Philippines lands a punch to the face of Andrew Selby of Wales during their preliminary bout in the flyweight class of the World Boxing Championships. Payla advanced with a 24-4 win. AP

Race queen struts stuff on dance floor

WHEN SHE'S NOT OUT ON THE road flooring pedals and negotiating turns, she's on the dance floor doing twists.

Baguio pride Karen Navarrete-Anton, the country's first Filipino Marlboro Red Racing champion, showed she can switch from speed to grace when she bagged the gold in the National Dance Sport Championship recently at the Philsport Complex in Pasig City.

Anton, together with new dance partner Rene Lavestre, were flawless in their 3-dance routine to earn the gold in the Special Event F1 in the competition participated in by the country's best dance sport athletes.

Dancing is actually the fiery racer's first love, and Anton proved she still packs mean moves in ruling the event organized by the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines, Inc. (DSCPI).

"It's been a banner year for me and I am extremely happy about our win because dancing is truly my passion," said Karen, who gave credit to her mentors and coaches, especially to North Luzon Dance Sport Chapter president Zen Rouzi, under whom she trained in the past month.

The NLDC team emerged as one of the most bemedalled dance sport teams in the Philippines, particularly in the Latin events during the National quarterly ranking and championship last year.

ANTON and partner Lavestre cap a routine with flair.

PACMAN POOL

Luat forges semis duel vs De Luna

RODOLFO "BOY SAMSON" LUAT GOT THE better of his marquee duel against reigning Korean Pro Tour champion Joven "The Shark" Bustamante and stormed into the semifinals via a 9-8 victory in the 1st Manny Pacquiao International 9-Ball Open Championships yesterday at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

With the win, Luat arranged an intriguing showdown opposite Jeffrey de Luna, winner over lone American hopeful Rodney Morris, 9-6.

Actually it was Joven, distant relative of former world No. 1 Francisco "Django" Bustamante who stormed to a three-rack lead right at the start of the match, but Luat slowly clawed back into contention by taking the next two racks.

By the end of the 10th frame, the score was tied and both players engaged in a staring match that featured two more deadlocks before Luat finally escaped with the victory.

Luat and De Luna are already assured of P150,000 each for barging into the final four in this event supported by Filipino boxing champion Manny Pacquiao in close cooperation with Solar Sports.

The champion in this P2 million tournament gets P1 million while the runner-up take home P500,000.

The matches between Dennis Orcollo versus Jomel Sultan, Michael Feliciano opposite Val Pajuay are still ongoing as of press time.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

2nd Bro. Rafael Donato FSC Golf tomorrow

THE LA SALLE GREEN HILLS (LSGH) ARCHERS '83 FOUNDATION INC. WILL host the Laking Verde–2nd Bro. Rafael Donato FSC Golf Tournament tomorrow at the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club. The tournament, which aims to raise funds for the Foundation for Sharing a La Sallian Education that the late Bro. Donato actively supported, is open to all La Sallians and friends. Registration in the event, co-hosted by the LSGH primus '68 and DLSU High School '56 and '66, starts at 6 a.m., while the shot-gun tee-off is at 7:30 am. For more details, call LSGH '83 at 4386677 or 4386688 or the LSGHAA at 7212729 or 7227750.

THE TOP women shooters seeing action in the Asian Clay Shooting Championships get ready for action: (From left) Gold medalist Zhu Mei of China, Keiko Suzu of Japan, Ma Huike and Zhou Chao of China, Eom Soyuen of Korea, and Shagun Chowdary of India.

Chinese shooters find their mark

THE CHINESE ARE RIGHT ON TARget.

After ruling the Asian Games in Doha last year, China's sharpshooters continue to dominate the region, gunning down three of the four gold medals at stake in the men's and women's trap events in the 2007 Asian Clay Shooting Championship at the PSC-PNSA Clay Shooting range in Muntinlupa City.

Zhu Mei, last year's gold medalist in the ISSF World Cup held in Texas and a silver medalist in the Doha Asiad, gunned down a total of 86 birds to bag the gold medal in the women's individual trap event.

Japanese Keiko Suzu grabbed the silver with an 83, one point better than the 82 posted by Chinese shooter Ma Huike, also an Asian Games veteran.

Zhou Chao, also of China, lost by a bird in a shootout with Huike and settled for fourth.

The 33-year old Mei later anchored the women's team that also include Ma and Zhou to the gold with a 1-2-3 finish in the team category of the women's trap event.

On Friday, the Chinese added their third gold in the men's team trap as the trio of Li Yajun, Xu Hong Tao and Ly Yang combined for 332 birds.

The Indians cooled the Chinese juggernaut with a gold medal finish in the men's trap individual.

Manavjit Singh Sandhu, ranked No. 1 in the world and last year's men's trap champion in the Asian shootfest in Singapore, duplicated his feat with another scintillating performance here.

He had a total of 140 birds, one better than the 139 made by Almudafh Khaled of Kuwait, who settled for the silver.

Local trap entries Olympian Jethro Dionisio, Eric Ang and Carlos Carag failed to make it past the preliminaries in the face of the world-class field.

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Website: www.inquirer.net/sports
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Becierra rules HK Amateur by 3

HONG KONG—DANTE BECIERRA MADE his first career title a most memorable one, becoming just the third Filipino champion of the Hong Kong Amateur Open with a three-shot victory yesterday at the Clearwater Bay Golf and Country Club course.

The 21-year-old former caddie from Apo Golf Club in Davao chased down two-day leader Edward Richardson of England with a final-round three-under-par 67 to end 15 years of drought for Filipino golfers in the territory's oldest golf tournament.

His four-round total of two-under 278 rewarded the ICTSI-backed Becierra his first career title as he mirrored the feat of Luis "Golem" Silverio (1961) and Francis Gaston in this tournament that began in 1931.

"*Masayang-masaya po ako* (I'm so happy)," said Becierra, savoring a blossoming career that started on a frustrating note after he failed to grab a spot in the Davao qualifying of the National Caddies Open back in 2005.

He said he didn't feel well at the start, but the opening bogey calmed him down and he played relaxed for the rest of the round.

Reigning national caddies champion Jerson Balasabas closed with a 71 for 296, good for joint fifth with Thai Chacrit Chitratanatham.

He also combined with Paul Echavez and Zanie Boy Gialon to finish second in the three-day team championship behind Taiwan.

Echavez, a 19-year-old from Apo Golf Club and playing in his first international tournament, finished solo 12th at 305 after a closing 76 while Gailon, a first cousin of Becierra, was joint 14th after an 82 for 309.

Their benefactor, Tommy Manotoc, founder of the Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation, was another two shots back at 311 after a closing 76.

"This exposure will be very good for the players' development, especially for Jerson who was able to experience how it was to play in the final flight of an international tournament," said Manotoc. "I'm sure they'll draw a lot from this experience."

Becierra started the day trailing Richardson by one and dug himself a hole with a bogey at the par-3, 230-yard opening hole, but he caught fire soon after to reach the turn four-up on Richardson.

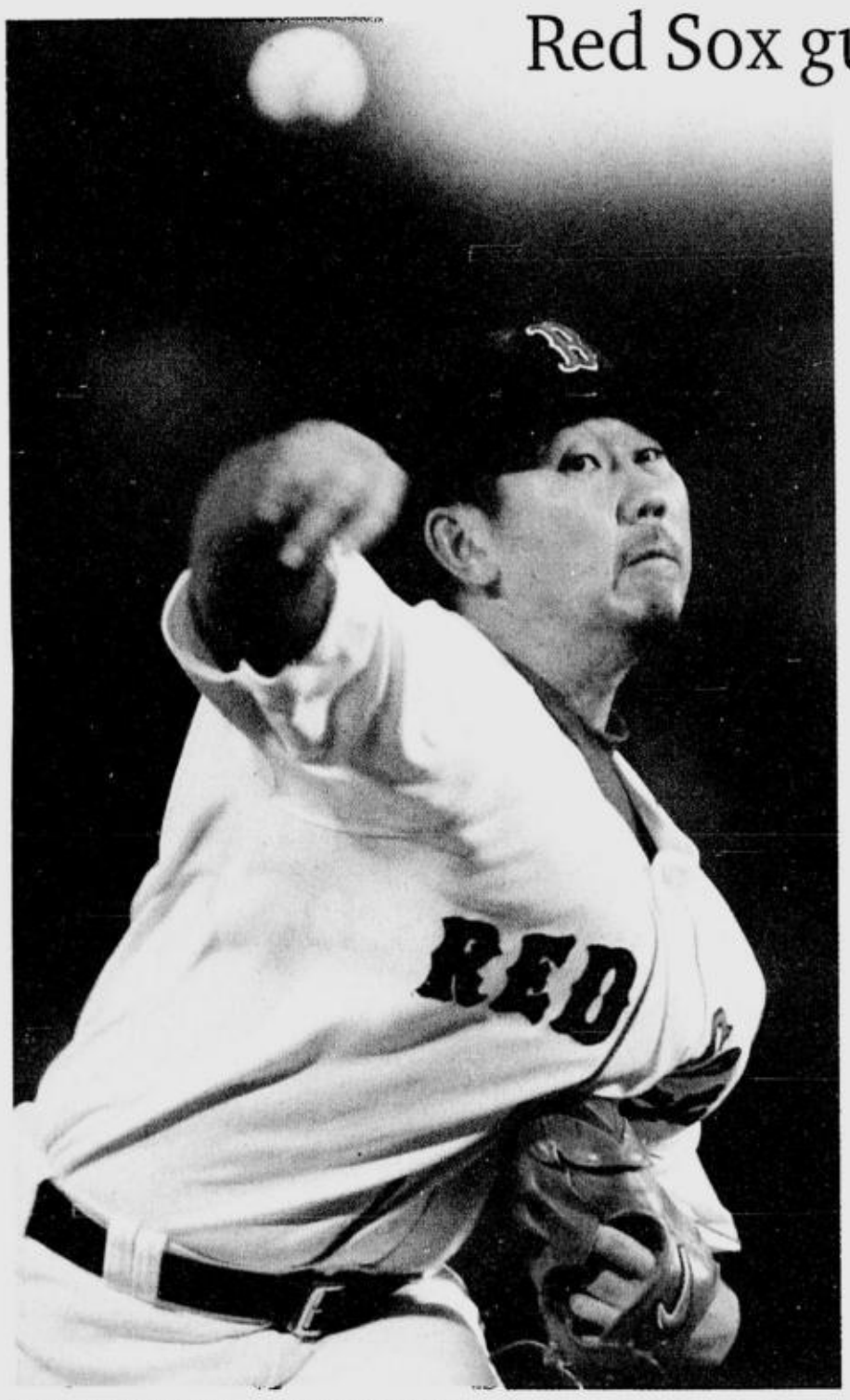
The Briton battled back to within a shot after a birdie-bogey exchange at the 13th before Becierra delivered the killer blow on the par-5 15th, two-putting for birdie after reaching the green with a splendid 3-iron from 230 yards out.

Unnerved, Richardson three-putted from 20 feet, fell three shots back, never to threaten again. He closed with a 71 for 281.

DANTE Becierra ends RP's 15-year drought.

Dice-K out to earn his pay

Red Sox gun for 3-0 lead vs Rockies


DAISUKE Matsuzaka hopes to be worth every dollar Boston paid to acquire him. AP

DENVER—THE BOSTON RED SOX spent over $50 million just for the rights to negotiate with Daisuke Matsuzaka and on Saturday the Japanese pitcher will be expected to repay some of that fee when he takes to the mound for Game Three of the World Series against the Colorado Rockies.

The Red Sox take a lead 2-0 to Denver after winning the opening two games of the best-of-seven series at Fenway Park.

Matsuzaka, who cost a total of $103 million when he moved from Japanese club Seibu Lions, will become the first Japanese pitcher to start in a World Series game.

"Just because you have a long career doesn't necessarily mean that you get to be in this position, so today I feel very happy," Matsuzaka told reporters.

The 27-year-old has had the World Series in his sights since he was shown a replica of the trophy by Red Sox chair Tom Werner shortly before signing for Boston in December.

"Last year when I saw the trophy, I felt that it was very beautiful and I was very moved. At that point a lot of things were still in the air, but I definitely wanted to hold that trophy in my own hands one day," he added.

"As I said after I signed with the Red Sox in the press conference, I wanted to play my small part in getting us to the championship, and if others could think that I played my small part to get us here, then I would be very satisfied and grateful."

The Rockies' Coors Field with Denver's mile-high elevation in the Rocky Mountains means thinner air, which offers less resistance to baseballs. The air and dry climate hurts pitchers as their curve balls have less break, while helping hitters smack the ball farther.

Matsuzaka said so far he has not had much indication that the different air pressure will have an influence on his pitches.

"I arrived yesterday (Thursday), and I don't know if it's just that I'm insensitive but I haven't noticed anything too different," he said.

"Playing catch and just feeling things out, I felt I might have to work a little harder on my command while I'm here, and the one thing that I want to be particularly careful about is leaving the breaking ball up."

One thing is certain: the thin air surrenders home runs and no lead is safe, especially against the Rockies, and Dice-K knows that.

"They are a very aggressive lineup throughout," Matsuzaka said. "But even though I know that I would like to go in there and pitch without hesitation, throw strikes and get outs."

Matsuzaka became known for his "gyroball", a mystery pitch that developed an aura of its own, before the Japanese star ever threw a ball for Boston. Even now his rivals are uncertain what to make of Matsuzaka's signature pitch.

"I have no idea what it is," said Colorado pitcher Josh Fogg, who will face Matsuzaka since pitchers must bat in National League ballparks in the Series.

"I've heard a lot about it. It looks like a change-up. I'm guessing it's a change-up. Hopefully he doesn't throw it to me."

Matsuzaka will face a former Seibu teammate in Colorado's Kazuo Matsui. The two dined together before the season to wish each other well. Now one will come away a champion and the other will fall just short.

"When we played together, he was someone I respected tremendously," Matsuzaka said. *Reuters, AFP*

BASEBALL

Cebu seeks 4th in row vs Manila

STREAKING CEBU GUNS FOR ITS FOURTH straight victory against Manila today while Makati and Marikina try to remain within striking distance of the lead today in Baseball Philippines' Series 2 at the Rizal Baseball Stadium.

The Dolphins, who outslugged the Taguig Forwarders, 6-2, last week to remain unbeaten in three starts, are heavily favored over the Sharks in their 7 a.m. encounter.

STANDINGS	W	L
Cebu	3	0
Makati	2	1
Marikina	2	1
Taguig	1	2
Manila	1	2
Dumaguete	0	3

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium)
7 a.m.—Cebu vs Manila
10:30 a.m.—Makati vs Dumaguete
2 p.m.—Marikina vs Taguig

But Cebu team manager Isaac Bacarisas said Manila, which reached the semis of the inaugural staging of the event organized by Community Sports Inc. last July, remains a tough rival despite its poor start.

"Although Manila didn't start out right, I still consider it a solid team—man for man," said Bacarisas in Filipino.

The Sharks dropped their first two games but smothered the Dumaguete Unibikers, 6-1, to remain in the hunt for a semis berth.

Meanwhile, the Mariners, winners of BP's pilot series, try to bounce back from their 1-8 setback to a resurgent Marikina side when they collide with winless Dumaguete at 10:30 a.m.

The Marikina Shoemakers gun for a follow-up to their stirring victory over the Mariners when they battle the Forwarders, toting a 1-2 (win-loss) card, in the 2 p.m. main game.

Federer books Swiss semifinal ticket

BASEL, SWITZERLAND—ROGER FEDERER cruised into the semifinals of the Swiss Indoors, his home tournament, by beating Nicolas Kiefer, 6-3, 6-2, Friday.

Federer served his first ace on second serve to earn three match points and won on his first when Kiefer mis-hit a shot into the roof of the hall.

The top-ranked player on the ATP tour, who comes from Basel, is seeking his second straight title in his hometown. If he repeats as champion, Federer will also end the year as No. 1 for the fourth straight season.

In the semifinals, Federer will play Ivo Karlovic, who had 38 aces in coming from behind to edge fifth-seeded Tomas Berdych, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (2), 7-6 (13).

Karlovic, the tallest man on the tour at 6-foot-10, has 1,272 aces for the year, still well behind the record of 1,477 set in 1996 by fellow Croatian Goran Ivanisevic.

Karlovic saved five match points in the final tiebreaker, before converting his fifth with a passing shot. He is having his best season on the tour, with three titles.

Federer, who won three of four Grand Slams this year, only losing at the French Open, beat Kiefer for the ninth straight time and is 10-3 against the German, who has made a strong comeback in the second half of the season after missing more than a year with a wrist injury.

"He was simply much better, especially on big points," Kiefer said.

Federer said his steady, solid game from the baseline gave him the match.

"I could control the baseline rallies, I had the upper hand, although he pushed me," Federer said.

Jarkko Nieminen upset second-seeded Fernando Gonzalez, 6-3, 7-5, and damaged the Chilean's hopes of qualifying for the season-ending Masters Cup.

Nieminen will play 2005 runner-up Marcos Baghdatis, who beat eighth-seeded Paul-Henri Mathieu, 6-2, 7-6 (5).

Nieminen scored his first win against Gonzalez in five attempts, but not before wasting two match points while leading 5-4.

"I played very good tennis last year but I could not beat top 10 guys," Nieminen said. "This has been a very up and down year but I got my confidence back this week and now I am beating them. *AP*

Vets top Gawad race; PDI runner sideswiped

VETERAN RUNNERS REYNALDO DELOS Reyes and Ailene Tolentino topped the 10-kilometer event of the 1st Adidas Run For Love yesterday at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Although no cash prize was at stake in yesterday's charity run, more than 2,000 running enthusiasts joined the 5K and 10K fun runs.

Delos Reyes and Tolentino used this event to train for the 42K grand finale of the 31st National Milo Marathon slated on Nov. 18 in Metro Manila.

INQUIRER driver Gerry Jano joined the race along with other running enthusiasts of the paper, and was sideswiped in the 5K event by a passing vehicle whose driver ignored warnings by the Pasay City police not to enter the race route.

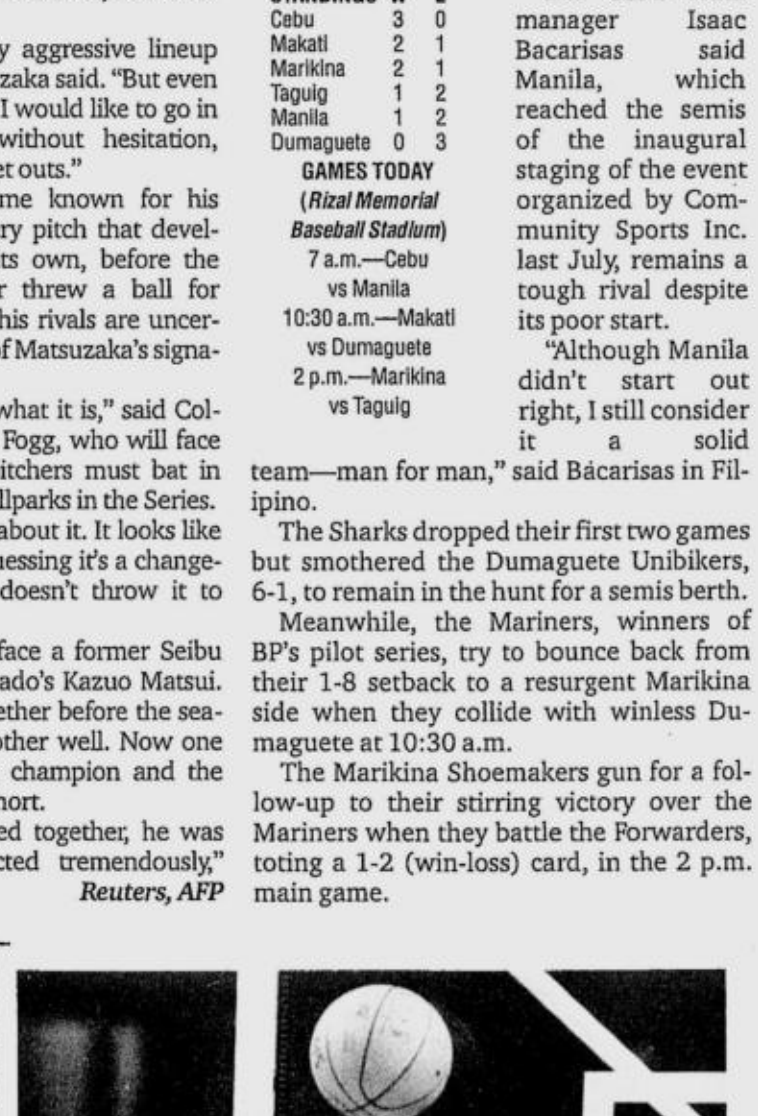
The runner, who suffered concussion and bruises on both knees, was given first aid at the area. The driver of the vehicle, reportedly an enlisted army personnel, was apprehended by the police and is being held for questioning at the Pasay City Police office.

Adidas sports marketing manager Goody Custodio was elated of the turnout of the race and vowed to hold a second edition next year.

According to Custodio, proceeds of the race will go to the Gawad Kalinga Foundation, an organization focused on the problems of poverty and the homeless by providing homes for the homeless.

"Adidas' commitment to the Gawad Kalinga includes the building of basketball courts and playgrounds in its communities," said Custodio in Filipino. "So we have put up one court in Filinvest and we plan to build 120 basketball courts in three years."

Custodio said Adidas will make Run For Love an annual running event.


ALMOST THERE: Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett (right) blocks a shot by Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James in their preseason match. With opening day nearing, teams are trying to get their stars back in competitive shape. AP

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What's a lawyer doing in a mall?

Well, he's looking after big business

Andres Bautista feels odd that a lawyer like him now manages hotels, malls, resorts

AT THE home of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Warm Springs, Georgia

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

IT'S NOT COMMON TO FIND A lawyer head a mall, real estate and resort business. In fact the image of stiff lawyers and fun and relaxation do not seem to mix at all.

But the Kuok Group, owners of the Shangri-La businesses in the country, must have seen something in Andres D. Bautista to make him head of the Philippine operations which include hotels, resorts, mall, condominium towers.

In September last year, Andy was made CEO of the Kuok Group Philippines after Tom Zita retired.

It was Zita who invited Andy to interview for the job as they were neighbors at the Pacific Plaza at the Fort.

Andy recalls feeling odd that a lawyer like him would be invited to consider joining the Kuok group, which includes the Shangri-La hotels, the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, the Shang Grand Tower, even asking Zita, "What is your job?"

But Andy was not thinking of getting the job when he agreed to meet with Edward Kuok, chair of the Kuok Philippine Properties Inc, a firm listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Andy was interested in trying to get the group, founded in Malaysia, as a client. At that time he was the first Filipino partner of Allen & Overy LLP (Hong Kong), a British law firm that had 2,300 lawyers worldwide.

WITH Harvard Law classmates in Tokyo

WITH wife Tisha in St. Petersberg

Meeting time with Kuok was 12:45 p.m. at the Horizon Club in Shangri-La Hotel Makati.

Not good news, Andy mused to himself thinking the better candidates had the morning meetings with him.

"The questions he asked were about my family, my years in Ateneo. He asked things that had nothing to do with business," Andy recalls.

That was June 1. The following day, Zita told him he was on the shortlist and was asked to take a day trip to Hong Kong to meet with Robert Kuok, founder of the group.

"This time I googled him and found him listed as one of the richest men in Southeast Asia. At the back of my mind I realized this is a better client," he says.

Robert Kuok is 82. He started a rice, sugar and wheat flour trading business in Malaysia in 1949 and then in Singapore in 1953. Today, the Kuok Group's investments extend to shipping, real estate and media.

When he met Robert, the first thing the enterprise builder said was "Can I give you a lesson in life? We are all given yokes and we must bear whatever yoke with grace."

Again the meeting had nothing to do with business.

From there he was brought to meet top executives of the group. At 5 p.m. Edward met him and told him "Andy, I have spoken to the others and we'll take a risk on you."

On the flight back to Manila, Andy had a lot of things to think about. Most of his career life was spent as a lawyer. In fact even as a child, he was already made to think about law.

He recalled his childhood. "When we were young, we were programmed by my father—me law, my brother will be a doctor."

"I didn't like science but I liked social studies. I liked what was going on in society. In fact my first job was as a reporter of Congress for Maris Diokno's (daughter of statesman Jose Diokno) Trend Researchers and Analysts.

"I have always wanted to work for Senator Diokno but when he passed away I settled for her," he smiles.

So while taking up law at the Ateneo, he worked during the day and went to school at night. He also became a clerk in the Supreme Court during the term of Marcelo Fernan.

Andy was a busy man but happy that he was working while studying and getting extra curricular experience. "What I learned in the classroom was complemented by the outside world."

Andy graduated at the top of his Ateneo law class and placed 11th in the Bar. Graduation brought a dilemma to him—he was accepted at the University of Michigan on a full scholarship for his Masters of Law. But he also got accepted at Harvard Law School without a scholarship (as he was advised that applying for scholarship would diminish his chances of acceptance).

But he knew that a Harvard degree would give him better chances. With the help of a sister and a brother in the US he went to Harvard on a $35,000 (about P1.6 million) loan.

After finishing his MA Law in 1992, Andy said he had no choice but to look for a job that would enable him to pay off his loans to his siblings quickly.

But even with a Harvard degree, finding a job was not a walk in the park. None of

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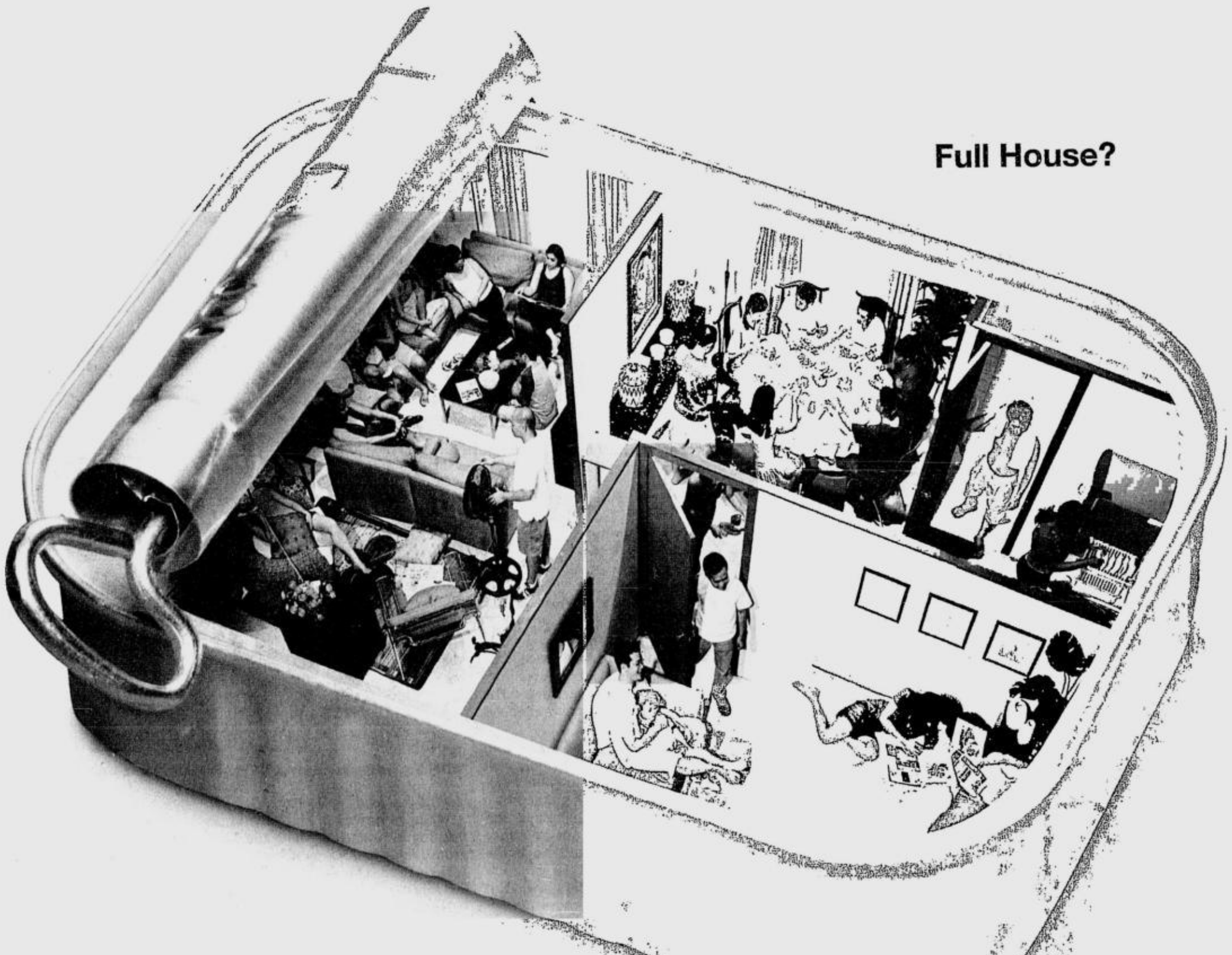


Bank lends hand to NGOs

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WINNERS ALL. (From left): Teresita Silva, Bienvenido Delgado, Jane Walker, Sarah Watkinson and Malou Delgado

THEY HAVE HIGH HOPES AND BIG dreams for Filipino children, especially the orphans—those who live in dumpsites, prowl the streets or abandoned by their families.

Philippine Christian Foundation Inc. plans to build the world's largest classrooms out of container vans near the infamous Smokey Mountain dumpsite in Quezon City, as well as provide more children with free basic education and nutritious food.

Childhope Asia Philippines, meanwhile, has been providing street children with basic education, as well as sanctuary for sexually and physically abused children living in the streets of Metro Manila.

Still, Childhope wants to do much more.

SOS Children's Villages Philippines, on the other hand, has already taken in about 1,000 Filipino kids in its children's villages in Cebu, Davao, Manila and Iloilo, as well as in Lipa, Batangas; Calbayog, Samar; and Tacloban, Leyte.

But realizing that there are more abandoned and orphaned children out there needing a home, it wants to put up even more villages across the Philippines.

Thanks to the combined $225,000, or P10 million, donation of HSBC under its global Future First program, PCF, Childhope and SOS have taken one giant step closer to making their dreams come true.

The Future First program, launched in the Philippines this year under HSBC's Global Educational Trust, is a $10-million five-year program to provide education, healthcare, counseling and shelter to disadvantaged children.

Mark Watkinson, CEO of HSBC in the Philippines, told the INQUIRER on the sidelines of the awarding ceremony last Tuesday that he was elated to hear that the Philippines accounted for five of the 44 projects worldwide that the HSBC Global Education Trust recently approved for funding.

SOS Children's Villages got $25,000 for each of its three one-year projects. The money will go to the SOS Preschool Education Program in Lipa, Batangas; SOS Family Strengthening Program Iloilo, and a preschool and pre-nursery education program, also in Iloilo.

PCF, on the other hand, will get $75,000 for its three-year project to help 800 children in depressed areas in Metro Manila, Baguio and Bacolod.

Childhope, on the other hand, will use its $75,000 to benefit 1,000 street children and give them education, basic health services, legal protection and assistance, and even skills they can earn from.

Watkinson said the projects were chosen based on the vision behind the project, the prospects of being sustainable, quality and creativity, and the opportunities for HSBC staff to participate.

"We're very happy with the results and look forward to working with these NGOs to implement these worthy projects," Watkinson said. "Future First gives HSBC a wonderful opportunity to make a significant and positive difference in the lives of Filipino street children."

"We will be opening up the program again next year and we hope that we get many other quality proposals that will allow HSBC to further improve the lives of disadvantaged Filipino street children," he added.

As he says, investments for the future must be done today.

HSBC CEO Mark Watkinson

GOINGS-ON

Outstanding businessman

THE AMERICAN BIOGRAPHICAL INSTITute of the United States of America, a world leader for research of outstanding individuals around the globe, has selected Dr. Antonio P. Tecson to receive the Gold Medal for the Philippines award for his achievements as professional and a boon to society and country. Tecson graduated summa cum laude BSC major in accounting at the Far Eastern University in 1956, and was given a doctor in business administration degree, honoris causa by the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. He is president of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCCI), a national director of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa) and is well known in the banking and credit business circles in and outside the country.

TECSON

Fruit Magic switches to Sun Cellular

THE UNMISTAKABLE LOGO SAYS IT ALL about the store: "We only juice fresh." And that is where the company attributes its success.

Fruit Magic, the premiere source of the freshest fruit juices, shakes and smoothies in the country, brings together president and CEO Alan Escalona's two passions—health and business.

A doctor and an entrepreneur, he always makes sure that Fruit Magic serves only the most delicious and all-natural products. This is policy that continues to give Fruit Magic the recognition and public acceptance that it is now enjoying.

Launched in 1983, Fruit Magic was an immediate hit among consumers. Through the years, it has grown by leaps and bounds, with more than 70 stores nationwide. And Sun Cellular delivers the "magic" in keeping all these stores connected.

SUN Cellular delivers the 'magic' in keeping all the Fruit Magic stores connected.

"During the early years of our business, we only had a few mobile phone lines but it was costing us a lot," says Escalona. "Then we switched to Sun." He immediately saw the benefits when he got his first phone bill. "The savings I gained allowed us to triple the number of lines we originally had."

He then decided to purchase more Sun lines for Fruit Magic employees for easier and faster coordination with other branches. Sun has definitely allowed the company to add more phones for its growing business which translates to more efficient operations, without the exorbitant costs.

And because of Sun's revolutionary 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited service, "We can contact any one at any time and relay directions without miscommunication. With Sun, 60 percent of our phone bills disappear like magic!" adds Escalona.

REGALOSERVICE.COM is recognized for upholding the advocacy on "the use of Internet and e-commerce through business development."

Online Shopping wins international award

POPULAR ONLINE SHOPPING WEBSITE www.RegaloService.com was recently awarded by Apec Digital Technology Opportunity Center as the Best ICT (Information & Communication Technology) Practice from the Philippines.

The awarding ceremony was held at the Taipei International Convention Center in Taiwan. Accepting the award was owner Reggie Bundang of RegaloService.com who also attended the Adoc (Apec Digital Opportunity Center).

The award was accorded to RegaloService.com for upholding Adoc's aim of advocating "the use of Internet and e-commerce through business development," consequently giving recognition to the best e-commerce practices from various websites in the country.

SAEED A. Daof is sworn in as chairman of the board of the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA) by President Macapagal-Arroyo

New SPDA chairman

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS recently administered the oath of office to Saeed A. Daof, a peace advocate, as chairman of the Board of the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA).

The SPDA, created by law, operates under the Office of the President, and is mandated to foster and accelerate the balanced growth of the Southern Philippines region for national economic, social and political stability.

People do what people see

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

IN YOUR LIFE AS A LEADER, MANY things are beyond your control.

You can't control what your people say about you or think about you. You can't control the decisions prospective clients make about your company. You can't control your competitors' marketing tactics. You can't control the national economy, the stock market or the weather.

But in the midst of an ever-changing, often uncertain environment, there is one thing over which you have absolute control—your integrity.

When it comes to being honest, principled and ethical, you are the master of your own destiny. Other people and external forces might test it in various ways, but at the end of the day, you alone control your integrity.

Integrity is all-encompassing

It's not something you demonstrate at home or church and set on a shelf at work. People of integrity don't live bifurcated lives; their morals, ethics, treatment of others and overall character are the same wherever they are, whatever they're doing.

This foundational element of leadership crosses geographic, religious, cultural and socioeconomic boundaries.

As Federal Express founder Fred Smith says, "If you look at every religion in the world, they all have the identical Golden Rule, almost word for word. It does not make any difference what religion or geography it is. There are universally transferable fundamental truths about how you treat people in both the business world and in the larger scheme of things."

When you follow the Golden Rule and live with integrity, you set an example that has a far greater impact than any words you could ever speak.

Why is leading by example such a powerful concept?

I can answer that with five short words: People do what people see.

It sounds so simple, but it's absolutely true. And it applies to so many areas of leadership.

First of all, it's the No. 1 motivational principle. If you want to motivate your people to go to a whole new level, get motivated to grow and develop yourself. Remember—people do what people see.

Second, it's the No. 1 training principle. When someone asks me, "How do you train your people?" I don't have to think twice about it—people do what people see. If they see their leaders constantly learning and acquiring new skills and competencies, they'll be inspired to do the same.

Thirdly, "people do what people see" is the No. 1 mentoring principle. What do you do when you mentor someone? You flesh out your life for them—you give them an insider's view of what you're experiencing and how you're handling it.

The goal, of course, is for the person you're mentoring to learn from your mistakes and successes so that when they are faced with something similar, they make the right choices.

Finally, it's the No. 1 values principle. A company might spend a great deal of time formulating impressive-sounding values statements and core beliefs, but these principles don't mean anything unless the leaders in the company—from the corner office on down—model them consistently.

Why is adhering to the right values such an important part of leading by example?

Paul O'Neill, retired Alcoa chairman and former treasury secretary, gives us a clue: "If people can find even trivial examples of deviation, those deviations will become the norm," he says. "You really have to be almost religious in making sure that you don't do something somebody can point to in a negative way."

In other words, if you want to lead by example in a positive way, you must be committed to living a life of integrity. When you're right on the inside, you lead correctly on the outside. It starts with you and spreads out to everyone in your circle of influence.

If you want to be a successful leader in turbulent times, live with integrity and lead by example.

Remember—people do what people see.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please e-mail us at bingericta@gmail.com or call 813-2049/2732 and ask for Bing Ericta. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)

What's a lawyer...

From page B1

the doors opened easily.

"It was a humbling experience looking for a job. I sent out 120 resumés and only got two interviews. The Philippines was not the flavor then—it was India, China and Japan."

He finally got a job at a law firm whose clients included firms looking at building power plants in the Philippines. The early '90s was marked by a power crisis in the Philippines and many foreign investors put in money to build power plants under a build-operate-transfer scheme.

At the Troutman Sanders law office in Atlanta, Andy served as a foreign lawyer providing advice in matters relating to the Philippine power sector.

In September 1993, he moved to the White & Case law firm in New York where he practiced general corporate law specializing in project finance, mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructuring, joint ventures and cross border transactions. He was appointed to the Hong Kong office in January 1996 where he stayed for four more years before moving to Allen & Overy.

After seven years of drawing up contracts and legal paperwork, Andy realized he was ready for a change.

WITH Atty. Ted Regula and former US Vice President Al Gore at the RCBC Plaza, Makati, in 2005

When he arrived in Manila after his meeting in Hong Kong with the Kuok group, Andy had a long talk with wife Patricia Cruz, a former student of his in law school.

He says he got his wife's support and then gave notice to his law firm which was also supportive of his decision.

Andy's main task in the Philippines is to oversee The Kuok group's investments.

"The Kuoks invested in the Philippines when nobody wanted to. They are among the biggest investors in the country," Andy says.

He admits that there was a learning curve when it came to finance. "I'm not used to numbers."

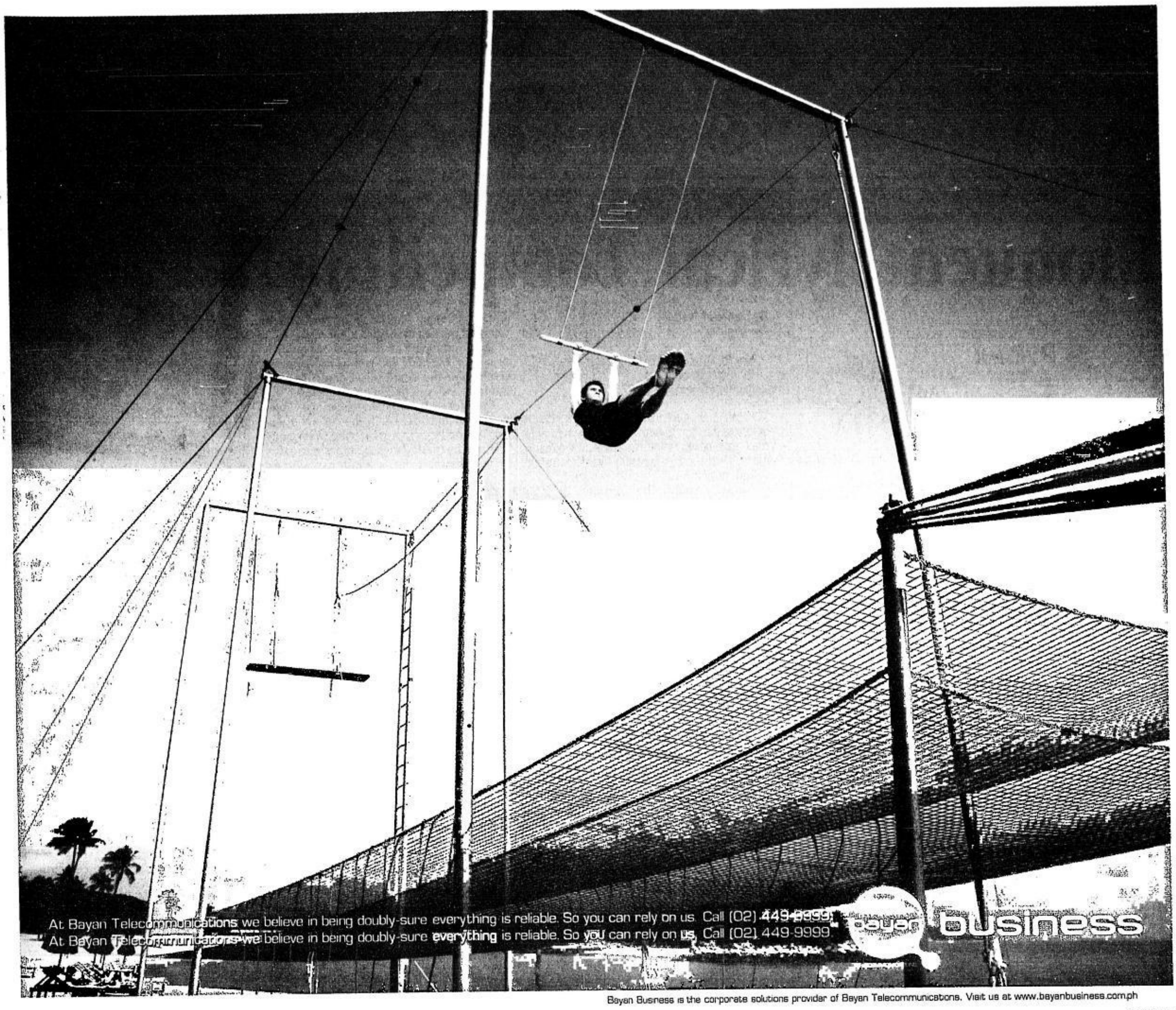
These days too he has to deal with suppliers and decide on tile or carpet colors.

"I need to create more synergy among the various companies, " he says.

These include Kuok Philippines Properties Inc., and Edsa Philippines, Shangri-La Properties, developer of The Enterprise Center and the Shangri-La Grand Tower. The hotels, he says, are managed by their respective general managers.

The Kuok group also allowed him to continue teaching at the La Salle-FEU combined degree on law and MBA. He teaches Constitutional Law.

Heading the Kuok group provides a different experience for Andy but he finds it all challenging. Having three young boys—aged 7, 5, 3—definitely perks up a job with an office inside a mall.



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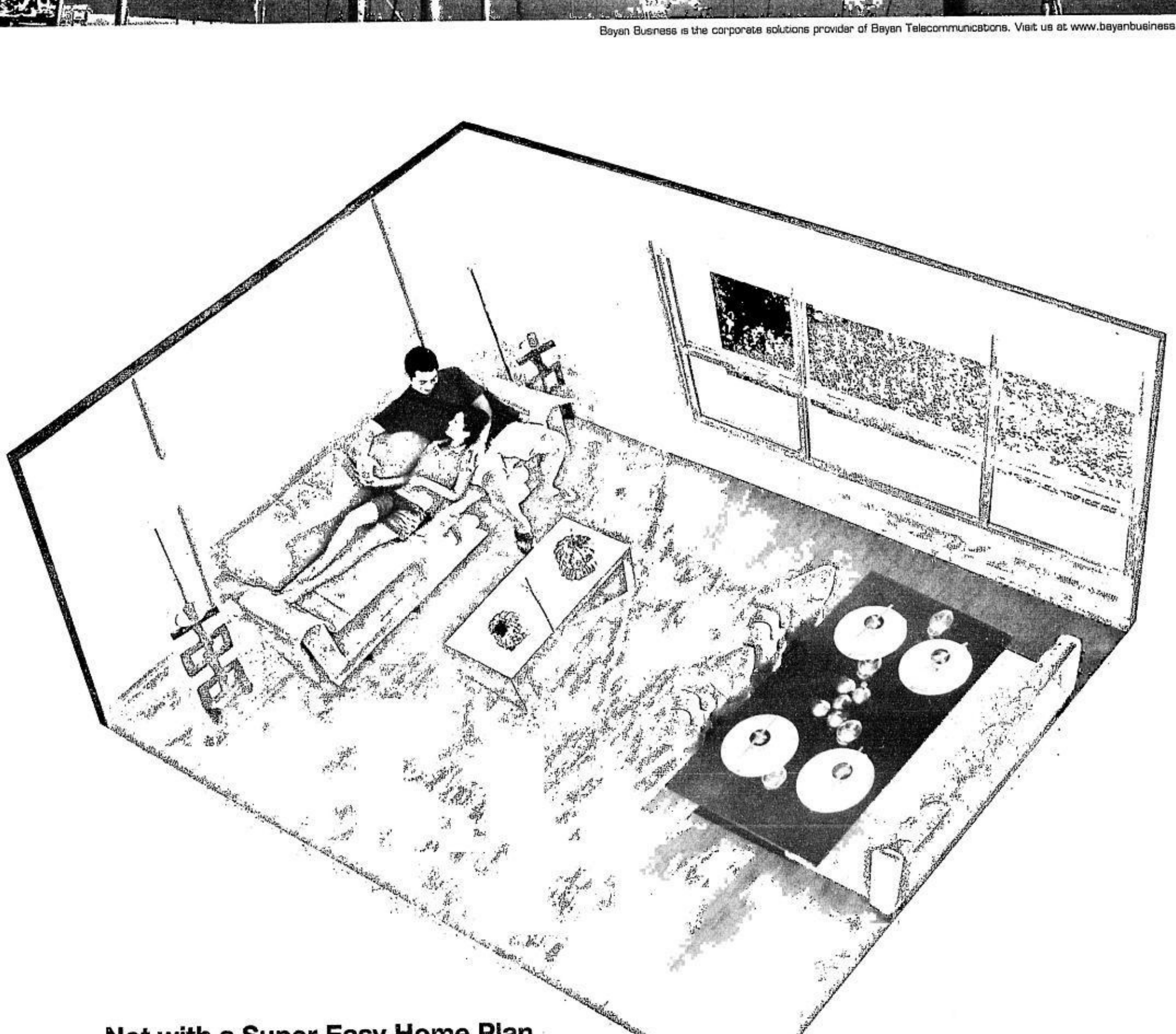

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SALONGA, THE MAN OF FAITH:

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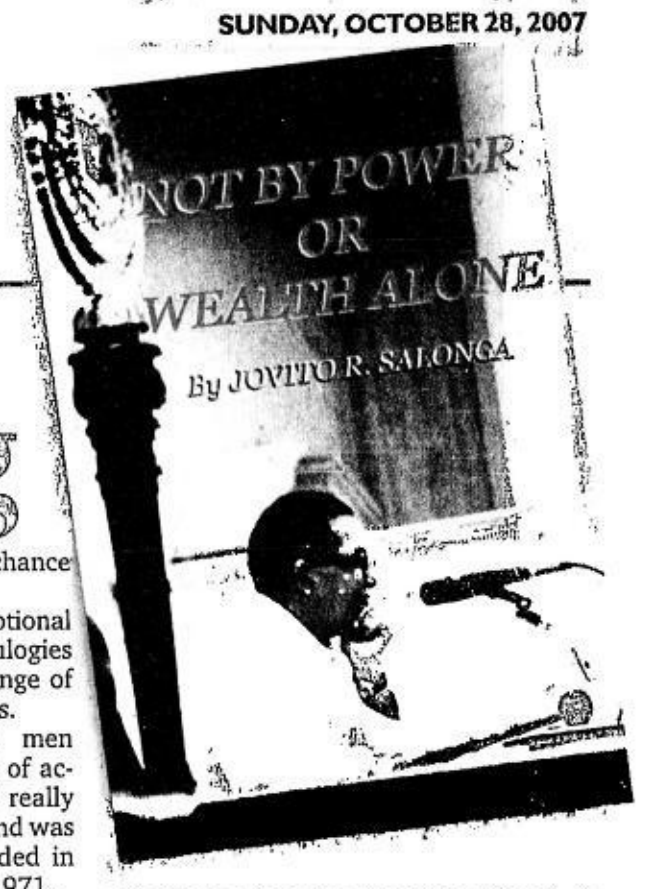

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

Not By Power Or Wealth Alone
By Jovito R. Salonga
Regina Publishing, 2007

YOU WILL BE GRABBED BY A DEEP SENSE of nostalgia for a heroic leader when you read this book, "Not by Power or Wealth Alone," written by one who lives this article of faith until now.

EXECUTIVE READ

Carefully note the present tense, because the writer has lived to be over 80—and living audaciously still—to make a difference, one more time, in the life of a nation still sadly divided by many issues.

Once in a rare while, his cogent analyses of issues on politics, law and governance find their way especially in the pages of the INQUIRER—to provide a sharp insight, a compelling persuasion, or an ennobling thought above and beyond the reach of petty partisanship or feeble lawyerly arguments.

He is widely known as one who became the Senate President who achieved, against all odds, what others failed to do—dismantle the foreign military bases. It was he who was most qualified to be President but—to the eternal regret of many—did not make it because he ran on a platform of "principled politics."

He lost the presidency, and yet he won—and continues to win—the hearts of many freedom-loving, democratically committed and virtue-driven people.

Much is known about the public man—Jovito R. Salonga—but less is known about the private person, the inner world of Author Salonga. This book is a rare chance to take a peek at Salonga's inner life.

This anthology of speeches, devotional messages, sermons, reflections and eulogies show Salonga's depth of wisdom, range of interests and, yes, height of his dreams.

Theodore Roosevelt spoke of men wounded and scarred in the "arena of action"—but here is a man who was really tortured by the Japanese Kempetai and was almost lifeless when a bomb exploded in Plaza Miranda in August 1971.

This man prayed and he said: "So that I may learn to consecrate myself to something bigger than life itself so that I may realize the truth that to have broken bones, to be physically shattered and crippled, is not of great moment as long as we do not allow anyone to break our faith in God, and cripple our love for our fellowmen."

The author himself explains it, quoting a poet: "Vengeance may be sweet, but it is not really sweet if it robs a man a peaceful night, makes his days darker and stifles the song that should be in his heart." This is a quote from a message delivered on Channel 2 on Good Friday in 1972, speaking of the power to forgive.

Whence come the uncommon strength and courage of the author? In a speech before Cursillistas, he provides us a clue: He finds strength from his faith. He said: "To some people, religion is a little air-conditioned compartment on the side of life, an escape, a refuge from the real issues. But the meaning of the Christian gospel is that religion is everything—or it's nothing."

The author-leader disproves the point of Nikolai Lenin that religion is the "opiate of the people." The author's 1969 New Year reflections show he remains attuned to sobering realities about the people, while so-called "religious people" tune them out:

"There are things I do not want to forget—the suffering I saw in the provinces, the injustice of incredible poverty in many of our villages and barrios, the lack of opportunity among our people bound by years of misery. It is by remembering those little faces of children, haunted by hunger and by the fear of tomorrow that I realize there is still so much to be done."

The author's thoughts about his encounters with leaders are both revealing and instructive. Because of that, they are tinged with irony since the people he dealt with were shifting positions on issues or even on ethical matters.

Salonga recalls his prayer in a National Prayer Breakfast in Manila Hotel, with President Arroyo in attendance, and recited this statement (that should now be timely considering the controversial presidential pardon that was met with mixed emotions by the country):

"In case of doubt, we should choose the hard right over the easy wrong; and when we are tempted to compromise, we should remember that anything can be compromised except truth and justice."

The author also recalls advising a head of state, in connection to a wiretapping incident in 2005, saying: "My advice to the President was quite simple and direct: 'Be not afraid to tell the truth'."

As expected, this book of speeches and short remarks are also adorned by the usual niceties about speech making. What one notices, though, is that the words and phrases rise to the level of eloquence and lyricism not by a conscious use of rhetorical devices—but by the sheer force of the man's thoughts and the pure simplicity and beauty of one so committed to higher causes and principles.

Actually, one better understands the durability and extreme relevance of Author Salonga in a eulogy where he quoted a rabbi: "Many people are not afraid of dying; they are afraid of not having lived. What frightens people is the dread of insignificance, the notion that we will be born and live and one day die—and none of it will matter."

This man matters to this country in desperate search for modern-day heroes. This simple quote from the book is a clarion call: "Greatness is all about service, not about power or wealth." This rings especially true for this author-leader. *(dantemvelasco@yahoo.com)*

Overcoming stress in the workplace

LIKE THE UBIQUITOUS MUG OF COFfee, stress is a staple of every workplace.

As professionals at audit, tax and business advisory firm Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A), Lina Figueroa, Grace Morales-Joboco, Sheryl Lopez and Ralph Itable wrestle with more than their fair share of stress.

Figueroa liaises with government when it comes to tax-related issues. Morales-Joboco handles payroll for as many as 20 clients. Lopez and Itable handle audit engagements.

But all four professionals agree that stress is manageable.

They share tips—learned the hard way—on how to do just that.

1. Write things down

Figueroa recommends making a to-do list that also includes possible solutions to current work problems.

2. Work that body

Itable, who makes it a point to exercise after work, says, "It helps to have a diversion, like a sport, that can help take your mind off problems and keep you fit."

3. Clear your mind.

"You might think such a short time can't make much of a difference, but if you feel yourself starting to panic, just close your eyes for a minute, breathe deeply, and try to clear your mind. It will at least help you calm down," says Morales-Joboco, who knows a thing or two about being frazzled.

4. Do not be afraid to speak up.

"If you genuinely feel that your workload is too much, do not be afraid to talk to your boss about it," says Morales-Joboco.

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10.0MM and up	5.00	5.00

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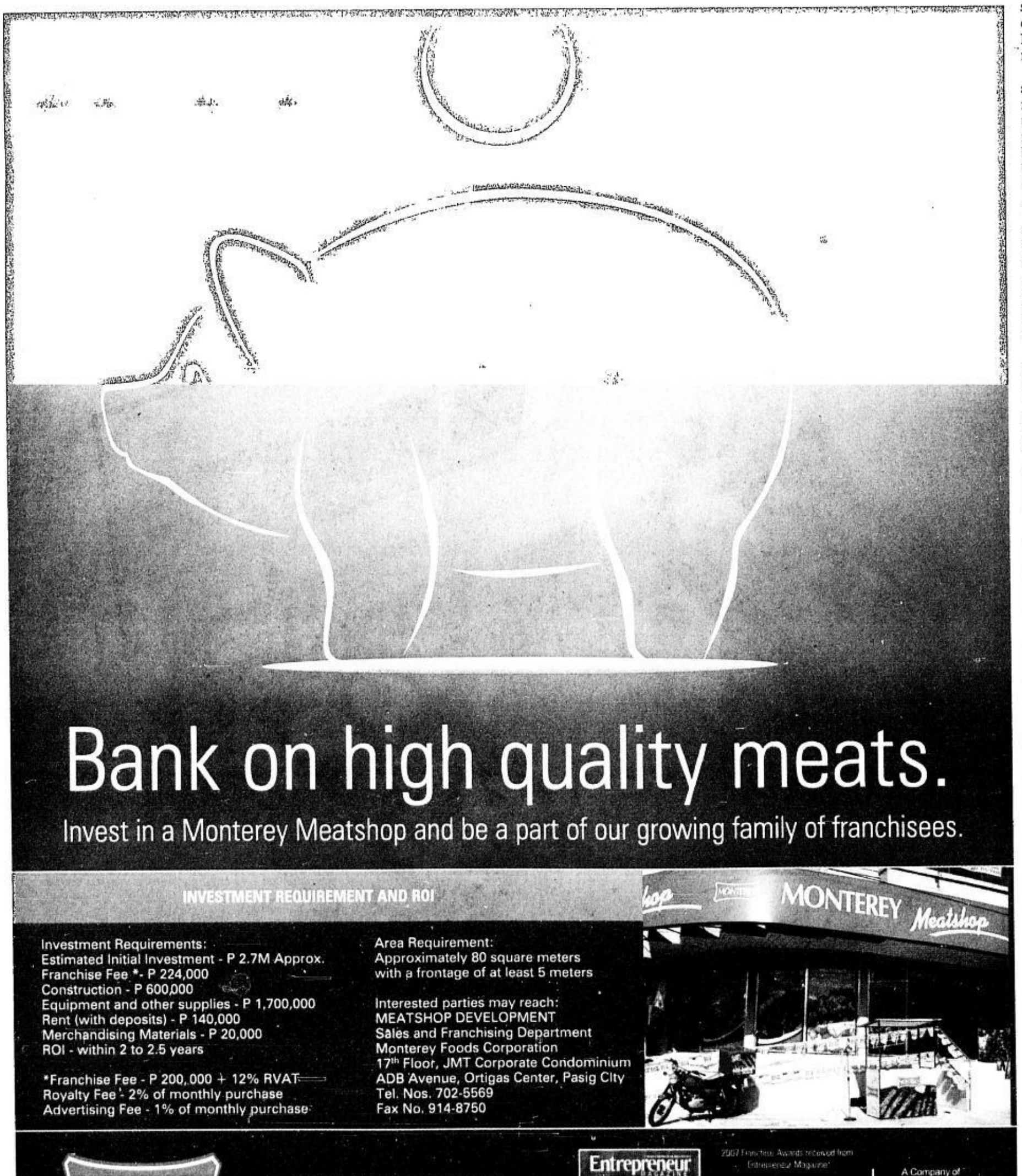

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Construction - P 600,000
Equipment and other supplies - P 1,700,000
Rent (with deposits) - P 140,000
Merchandising Materials - P 20,000
ROI - within 2 to 2.5 years

*Franchise Fee - P 200,000 + 12% RVAT
Royalty Fee - 2% of monthly purchase
Advertising Fee - 1% of monthly purchase

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Approximately 80 square meters with a frontage of at least 5 meters

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Tel. Nos. 702-5569
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- **Travel to the spas** of Europe /C5

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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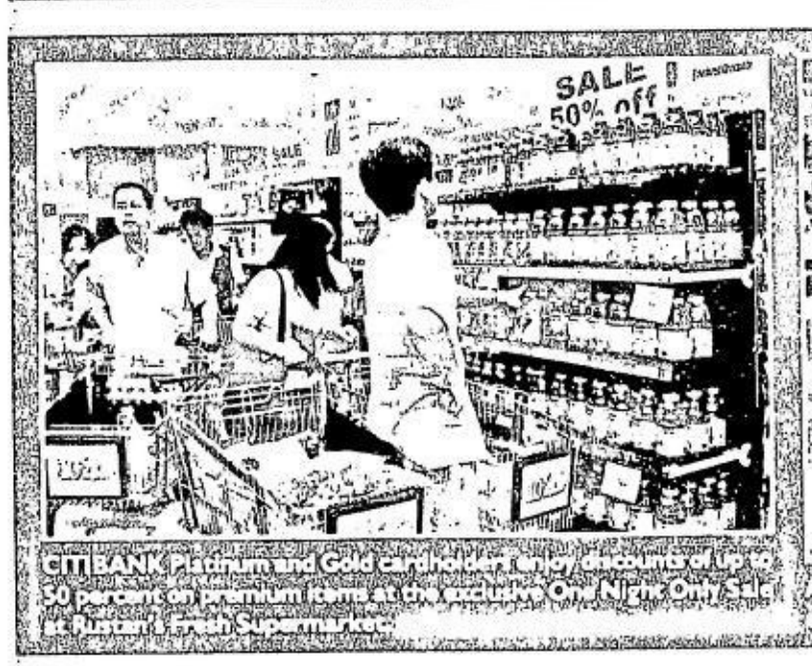


CITIBANK Platinum and Gold cardholders enjoy discounts of up to 50 percent on premium items at the exclusive Citi Night Out event at Rustan's Fresh Supermarket

ARMED with shopping lists, customers battle it out for best-selling products

CUSTOMERS get free reusable shopping bag with free grocery items.

BY INVITATION ONLY

How to attract shoppers back to Glorietta mall

Rustan's and Citibank treat Gold and Platinum credit cardholders to exclusive after-hours discounted shopping

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Alex van Hagen

CITIBANK'S Mark Jones and wife Jenny, with Rustan's Crickette and Donnie Tantoco

NEITHER RAIN NOR THE recent bomb explosion could keep Citibank Gold and Platinum cardholders from rushing to Rustan's Fresh Supermarket on Ayala Avenue in Makati City a few evenings after the Glorietta 2 incident.

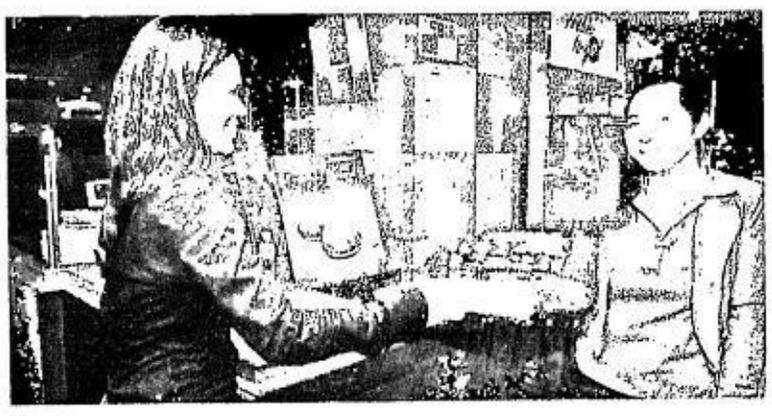
With items on sale at 5- to 50-percent discount, including buy-one-take-one offers, the shopping spree just proved too irresistible.

Although the exclusive, by-invitation-only event was scheduled to start at 8 p.m., two lines stretching to both ends of the Rustan's block had formed in front of the supermarket by 7 p.m., the eager shoppers only prevented from rushing inside when the doors opened by the necessary security check.

With aisles packed, Rustan's staff members had to assist people maneuver loaded carts, difficult enough to do even when the supermarket was not so jampacked.

In sections where discounts were as much as 50 percent, five-deep crowds gathered to take advantage of the bargain.

The shopping spree was the first partnership between Citibank and Rustan's Fresh, but the second such event for the supermarket, according to Bienvenido "Donnie" Tantoco III, executive vice president of the Shopwise group that operates the Rustan's supermarket chain.



CITIBANK Platinum and Gold cardholders also get free rye rolls, in addition to other freebies.

Citibank extended the exclusive invitation to its Platinum and Gold cardholders living and working in the Makati area.

It wanted to treat its clients to excellent bargains while making sure the experience was convenient for them by keeping it close to home and office.

Freebies

Aneth Lim, Citibank vice president for public relations, said, "The invitations came with coupons that gave our cardholders free groceries in a Rustan's recyclable bag which, when used on their next visit, would allow them to earn double points in [the] supermarket's loyalty shopper program. Rolls of rye bread were also given for free, along with two-hour parking passes and exclusive 50-percent off on chilled Australian beef and lamb and selected seafood items."

Tantoco said they determined discounts on items with the blessings of suppliers.

Though the event was supposed to end at midnight, the early birds homed in on items on their list and finished their shopping in no time, allowing them to enjoy the wines offered for tasting and the canapés, leaving room as well for the next wave of shoppers.

It was a tribute to the efficiency of the Rustan's staff that, despite the crowd, movement around the store remained relatively unhampered and the cashiers managed to get everything done in the shortest time possible.

Tantoco said Rustan's planned to make the shopping spree that started at the Rockwell branch a regular feature of the chain, organizing such events for people who live and work in the areas closest to the different branches.

Given the success of their initial partnership, Lim said Citibank was also "looking forward to hosting more of these [shopping sprees] with Rustan's Fresh in their other supermarkets around Metro Manila," as part of the bank's commitment "to deliver superior value to our cardholders and make owning a Citibank credit card a truly rewarding experience."

Make tutoring work for you

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

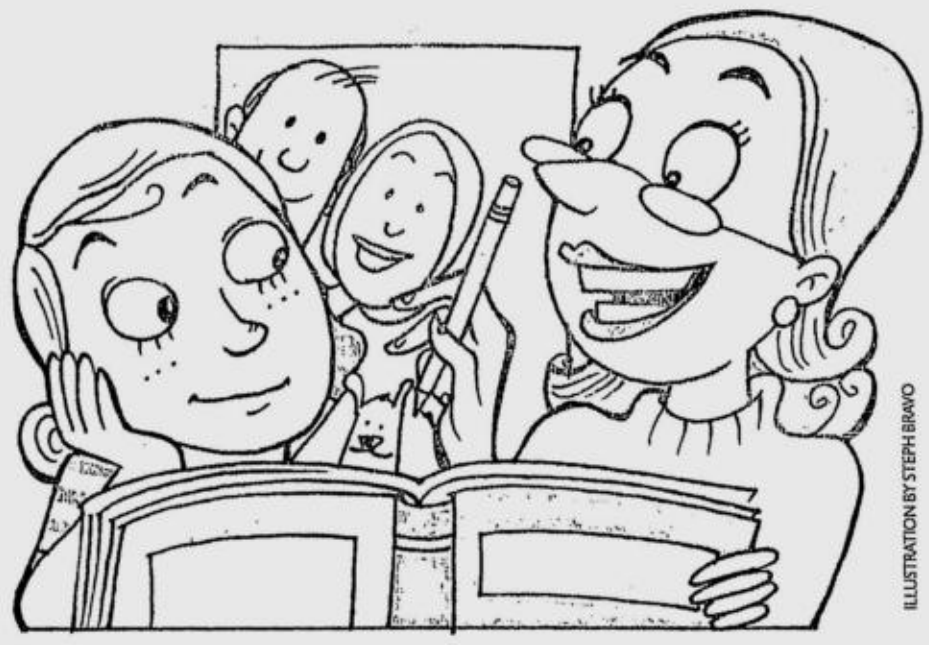


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

OUR ATENEO DE MANIla University surveys of public and private school achievers reveal that the best students seldom, if ever, rely on professional tutors.

They have developed consistent study habits, which have made them learn well. Many of them also participate in sports or school organizations after classes, which leave little time for outside courses.

Ideally, parents should guide their children, not just morally and emotionally, but intellectually as well. Unfortunately, many parents who hope for a quick fix depend on others to do what by rights is their responsibility. Some parents say they are too busy at work providing for their family. Others are scared of math and do not want to transmit their fears to their children. (Of course, it does not hurt for parents to review arithmetic, since it is needed in today's world.)

Other parents confess that they do not want to tutor their kids because both parties are likely to engage in a fight rather than in learning. But if parents do not have patience with their own children, how can other people succeed?

Many parents confess that they change tutors constantly, because they are not satisfied with the results. Others say that tutors are not competent enough (there is no licensure exam for tutors), while still others comment that tutors are in it only for the money and charge drastic overtime fees.

Tutors also complain about parents and children. Some say that parents expect miracles, others say that they cannot succeed with children who are unmotivated in the first place. Many tutors try their best, but for high level subjects, such as physics or algebra, more often than not, they also cannot solve the assigned problems either.

Choose effective tutors

I am not a fan of tutors, since from research and experience, I believe that parents make the best teachers, hands down. But this does not stop many parents from asking me for recommendations.

I cannot and will not give specific names of tutors here, but I can give guidelines in choosing effective ones:

"Get a dedicated tutor who can guide your child one-on-one. If you have to pay more for individualized instruction, then do so. It makes no sense for your child to be part of a group of ten handled by a harried tutor who cannot provide individual attention. If the tutoring environment is similar to an overburdened classroom, why give your child an added burden?

"Check the tutor's qualifications. How long has she been tutoring? What were the results? You may want to get references from satisfied parents. Tutors of grade school children need to know almost every subject, except perhaps for the Chinese language, which may require a separate tutor. Elementary students should try to stick with one general tutor rather than be overwhelmed by several specialists.

"In high school, frankly, teenagers should not even rely too much on tutors. But if your child is particularly weak in chemistry, then make sure to hire a chemistry expert. Be careful. Many tutors are wary of high school topics because they are more complex. Some tutors can manage algebra and first-year science, but not many have mastered geometry, chemistry or physics.

"Instead of hiring professional tutors, look at your family and neighborhood. Parents are the best tutors, but grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins rank a close second. Some of the best tutors I know are college students who teach their nieces and nephews to earn extra allowance. Because they are related to their tutees, they genuinely care for their charges and go the extra mile. Another good source of tutors are the math club, science guild, or history organization of your nearest high school or university. Members of these clubs are usually competent and interested in these subjects.

"Give the tutor and your child a trial period. Sometimes both may rub each other the wrong way. Avoid signing up for monthly programs that require advance fees.

Partner with your tutor

Once you have chosen a tutor, ask her to guide your child, not to do the work for him. In our survey of Ateneo honor students, many parents feel using tutors hinders independence. One parent who tutors her own child says, "We let our son finish the work he has started, whether it is a school project or a household chore. It is good for him to finish without outside assistance because then he can find ways to tackle difficult things in life. We want to teach him perseverance and patience." A tutor is a guide, not an assignment machine.

Set concrete goals for tutor and tutee. Instead of demanding of the tutor, "I want my child to be on the honor roll," state specific goals: "My son's science average is 75 percent. I hope you can work together towards 80 percent next quarter." Instead of saying, "*Talagang bobo ang anak ko sa* math! *Bahala ka na sa kanya*," you can say, "Since Grade One, my child has not been doing well in math. He's now in Grade Three and you are the fifth tutor. Can you examine the reasons for his poor performance, and tell us how you can help?"

Become partners with the tutor. Do not relinquish your duty as a parent. You can add, "Can you tell us what we can do to help, too?" The tutor can give your child extra exercises, which you can check afterwards. Or you can review basic skills with your child after your tutor teaches them. Children will learn better if parent and tutor complement each other.

Remember, tutors are academic guides, but parents are needed in other areas (moral, spiritual, social). Teaching your child ethics, social awareness, and civic values cannot be undertaken by specialists. You have to exert time and effort to guide your child in these matters. You may have shifted some academic responsibility to the tutor, but you are still the parent.

E-mail the author at blessbook @yahoo.com.

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Still pining for old love

DEAR EMILY,

I am a gay overseas Filipino worker in Saudi Arabia. I had a boyfriend from 1999 to 2001. He is married with three kids.

I love him so much and even now I am willing to die for him.

In 2001 he left Saudi Arabia to return to the Philippines anticipating that his petition to go to the United States would be approved. It was not and he did not leave the Philippines until 2004.

Although I am 52, I still look 30. Several guys of different nationalities are interested in me. In July 5, I accidentally bumped into somebody here in Saudi Arabia who who could have been a doppelganger for my ex-boyfriend.

After that incident, my love for my former boyfriend became more intense. After searching diligently for him, I finally had the chance to talk to him on the phone. I knew he was smiling and very happy to hear from me.

I gave him my cell phone number, e-mail address and all other information he needed to communicate with me. I even told him to call me whenever he needed me.

But until now he has not been in touch. Perhaps his intense feeling for me has cooled.

What should I do? I have contemplated suicide several times after his departure in 2001, and after our phone conversation in July.

CFA

One would think that, at 52, you would have learned all the lessons in love and life. Apparently not!

Are we not just fools in love? I have said it once, twice, and over and over—there are none so blind as those who refuse to see!

You have given him your undying love and affection all this time. And short of turning over every rock on this planet looking for him, you only wished that he would keep in touch—and he had not.

I will give you one guess as to how he truly feels about you!

C'mon, life is too short to be living a lie or to be constantly looking back to the past. You have had your time with him and he has moved on. His environment is so totally different from when you first met.

And now, with his family around, that chapter with you is possibly just a warm memory. If history repeats itself, then lucky you! But if it moves in another direction, hey, you better move on yourself.

With your looks and your talent, open your mind and heart to all new possibilities. Just do not make your life any shorter.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Visit www.pbs.gov.ph and listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

The secret of their success

THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN the Nation's Service (Towns) Foundation has honored 10 exceptional women, leaders in their own field of expertise. I thought it would be interesting for our readers to find out how some of these women manage balancing the demands of work and the responsibility of caring for home, children and husband, not necessarily in that order.

From their replies I found out one thing they share in common—that behind many an outstanding woman, is a husband (and a household staff) who believes and supports her.

This week, we feature, two awardees who are educators. Dina S. Ocampo is an associate professor at the University of the Philippines and one of the founders of Wordlab School, Inc., a non-stock, non-profit corporation which provides elementary education for children with dyslexia and related learning disabilities. She co-founded the school in 1995. Dina has advocated the use of child's language as the beginning language of education for over two decades. She is married to Adrian Cristobal, Jr., who is the director general of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, and is mom to Adrik, 14, and Alon, almost 2.

Cathy P. Vistro-Yu is a Mathematics professor at the Ateneo de Manila. Together with other recognized mathematics educators and in cooperation with the Department of Science and Technology, Cathy has been a prime mover, initiator, advocate and implementer of the Mathematics Framework for Basic School Mathematics Curriculum as well as a Framework for Mathematics Teacher Education. She is wife to Darwin who is chair of the Leadership and Strategy Department of the John Gokongwei School of Management at the Ateneo de Manila University, and mom to Becca, 13, and Sarah, 8.

What are some of the things that you and your children do together to bond?

Dina: I have two sons. There are activities we do together, but I make sure that I do activities with each one that is unique and appropriate to their needs and interests. With Adrik, the elder one, we chat a lot and discuss the questions he has about growing up, friends, special friends, school, teachers. He likes to talk and I try to give him all the time he needs (but as he says, it is never enough). We also ride on his interests which are music and sports so we support that in many ways. I have decided not to take up boxing like him, but this doesn't stop me from watching his favorite boxing bouts on the web or on TV. I also take him to the mall especially the music stores.

The little one is more demanding because he still breast-feeds and likes to play with his trucks and puzzles. He also likes us to read to him very often. When I'm home from work, he wants all my attention! That is very invigorating!

As a family, we like to visit with their grandparents on weekends. We also like hanging out in the bedroom and just chatting or watching the baby perform his many antics.

Cathy: Like many other families, we go to church together and visit their grandparents. We enjoy eating out, window shopping and traveling to different places when finances allow. We play board games at home, chit-chat, watch TV or go see movies.

We talk a lot before going to sleep. There was a time when they would request for childhood stories from me and my husband almost every night. We would oblige by telling them one childhood story each. And they enjoyed listening and learning about what we did when we were young. One of the things that my husband and I always try to do is to instill in them the importance of family and of being together as a family, especially now that our eldest daughter is in HS.

CATHY Vistro-Yu and family

How do you juggle the demands of home and work?

Dina: I keep a sensible and feasible schedule and do my best to keep to it. I try to stay home as much as I can. I work at home to prepare my lessons/lectures and then go to school to teach and be available for consultation hours to be spent with students. In this way, I am more productive in both home and work contexts. And there is more time for my kids!

Second, I try to get organized. Menus are prepared weeks in advance. So is the marketing and grocery list. In this way, I don't panic about the health and nutrition of my family and the people who work for us to keep the home together.

Third, we have warm-hearted and efficient people to help me run our home. I have to admit that I cannot do it without help because there is a little baby who needs constant attention. I think admitting that the balance of home and work was something I could not do alone (with a very busy husband) was a very important step.

Cathy: I have a very supportive husband who shares child-rearing/child-raising duties with me and attends to house needs with me. We both attend to our children's needs and spend time with them as much as our work schedules permit. As a mother, I try to spend more time with the children, especially in their early years as I made sure that they were always healthy, were growing properly, and were intellectually stimulated. Choosing to live close to Ateneo where we both teach full time and enrolling our children in schools near Ateneo were deliberate steps we took. I have been lucky to find reliable household helpers that eased the burden of keeping house and cooking meals.

I set priorities. Family first, students second, meetings third, etc. So far, this sequence has worked for me. It's also a blessing that I have very dependable and efficient househelp.

What inspired you to help set up Wordlab?

Dina: Wordlab School, Inc. was the fruit of four people's motivation and experiences. The founder is Ma. Elena Paterno-Locsin. She started Wordlab as an after school program for reading intervention. When I joined her, we continued our reading intervention for kids on a one-on-one basis. The operation grew into a four-woman operation with Rachel Red and Chique Colet. Together we set up the school because we were frustrated with how little progress our students were achieving in terms of school achievement and self-esteem.

Years later, I bore my first son and soon it became apparent that he had dyslexia and learning difficulties. This strengthened my resolve (and my husband's too) to advocate for his education needs. The best thing that a parent with a child who has special needs can do is to become educated about the condition in general and the specific nature of their child's learning profile, and needs. The parent is always the child's strongest advocate.

Math is a nightmare subject for most parents. What is the best piece of advice you can give so that the learning will not be anxiety-ridden and painful for the child?

Cathy: First of all, parents should accept and confront their own weakness in math. Second, they should be open to their child about this perceived weakness. I say "perceived" because I still believe there is some math knowledge in them that just needs to be unlocked. Third, they should make an effort to learn or relearn math together with their child. Not only are they able to spend quality time with their child, they are also slowly able to overcome their own anxiety by seeing math from a new perspective. Parents should "be with their children" as they continue to learn new math concepts.

I would advise parents and children to read books about math. The book, "The Number Devil" is a fun read for both adults and children. It is the story of a boy who learns to confront his own anxiety about math with the Number Devil, who teaches him and talks about math concepts in very fun and interesting ways.

Next Sunday, other Towns awardees: geologist Alyssa Peleo-Alampay and geneticist Dr. Eva Cutiongco-Dela Paz.

E-mail the author at cathybabao @gmail.com.

DINA Ocampo and family

BPI Express Credit Classic, the card for the budget-conscious

Budgeting is considered as one of the most arduous tasks in housekeeping. It gets more challenging when you have to juggle it with your other responsibilities at home, at work, and in the family. With the many roles and responsibilities you assume, you can't help but wonder, "How can I do all these things without any help?"

The Bank of the Philippine Islands pays tribute to the versatile working mother with the enhanced features of the BPI Express Credit Classic card, the card for the budget-conscious.

Save as much interest from your credit card as you can!

BPI Express Credit Classic's interest rate was cut from 2.99% to an all-time low of 2.75% a month. Knowing that you have more important things to pay for than interest fees, its interest rate has gone down even as prices have gone up. This helps you cope with inflation.

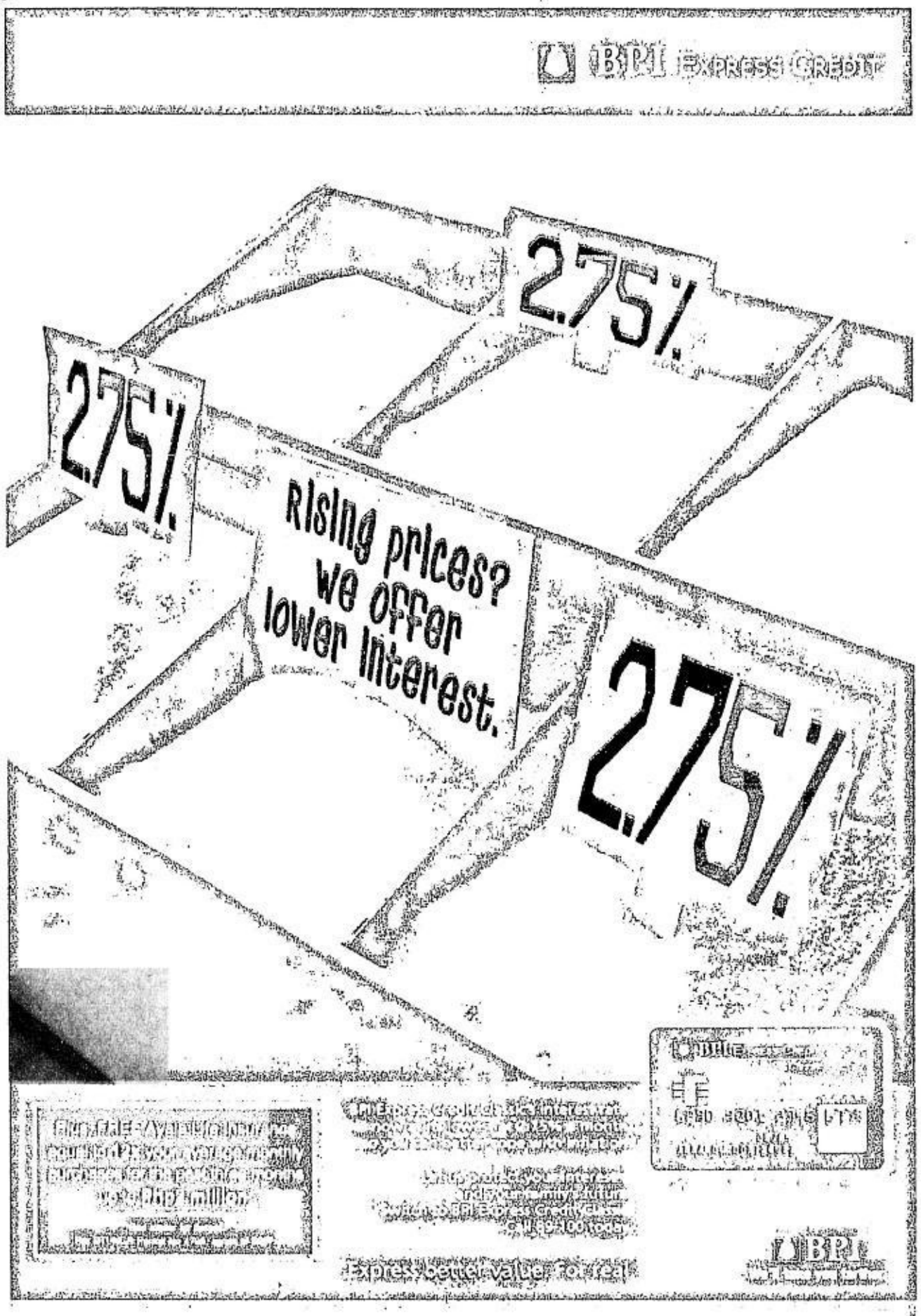
Aside from the low interest rate, BPI Express Credit Classic also has a friendly finance charge computation that charges you 0% interest on new purchases. That lets you save as much as a month's worth of interest fees, allowing you to spend more on the things that matter to you most.

Why pay for insurance when you can get it for FREE?

We know that you and your family deserve to get value that goes beyond rewards. That is why BPI Express Credit Classic now comes with an Ayala Life insurance - FREE! Now, you can have more peace of mind knowing that you have secured your family's future without any cost.

BPI Express Credit Classic gives you automatic insurance coverage equal to 12x your BPI Express Credit Classic's average new billings for the past three months up to a maximum of Php2 million. Best of all, this lasting reward is on top of your Frequent User Privileges. Absolutely no points deducted! You can continue earning points which can be used to redeem household appliances and gift items as you protect your loved ones' future.

Get a BPI Express Credit Classic now, and enjoy rewards that truly express better value. For real.



BE A JOLLIBEE KIDS CLUB MEMBER AND JOIN THE GAMES TO WIN EXCITING PRIZES AT THE HALLOWEEN EVENT:

- Promo period is from September 24 to November 4, 2007.
- How to join the games:
  a. Join Jollibee Kids Club and for a minimum purchase amount of 150 pesos in a single receipt from any Metro Manila Jollibee Branch, you will instantly get 1 Member's entrance ticket AND 1 Companion's Entrance Ticket to the Jollibee Magical Forest Halloween Event on November 4, 2007 at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall.
  b. On the event date, on November 4, 2007 at SM Mall of Asia Music Hall, PRESENT YOUR ENTRANCE TICKETS at the Registration area to enter the venue and join the games.
  c. Game marshals will select the participants in the games among the attendees. All games will be done during the event on November 4, 2007 from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm.
- Game #1: Let's Go Fishing (11:00 to 11:30 am)
  a. Mechanics
    1. Saga Events will provide the following items for the game.
       a. 5 orange balls with the letter "J" printed on it
       b. 5 orange balls with the letter "O" printed on it
       c. 10 orange balls with the letter "L" printed on it
       d. 5 orange balls with the letter "I" printed on it
       e. 5 orange balls with the letter "B" printed on it
       f. 10 orange balls with the letter "E" printed on it
       g. 10 orange balls with Jack-o-lantern designs
       h. 1 large inflatable pool
       i. 5 fishing rods
       j. 5 sets of clothesline
       k. 5 sturdy platforms for parents to stand on
    2. 5 teams will be formed to compete in this game. each team is composed of an adult and 3 kids. WINNER – 1 parent, 3 kids CONSOLATION PRIZES – 4 parents, 12 kids
    3. Each adult will be given a fishing rod. Using the fishing rod, they have to get the balls that spell J O L L I B E E.
    4. After they fish out each ball, the adults will pass it to the kids in their teams. The kids will hang the balls at the clothesline to spell the word "JOLLIBEE." The team to finish first will be the winner.
  b. Prizes
    1. The winning team will receive the following prizes:
       a. Php 1,000 Jollibee GC for each team member – for parents
       b. 1 Jollibee Music Maker toy for each team member – for kids
    2. The other 4 teams will receive the following consolation prizes:
       a. Php 500 Jollibee GC for each team member
    3. Prizes are non-convertible & non-transferable
  c. Prizes for Let's Go Fishing will be given to the participants immediately after the game.
- Game #2: Open the Magical Door (1:40 to 2:10 pm)
  a. Mechanics
    1. Saga Events will provide the following items for the game:
       a. 1 container (mini-treasure chest) for the prizes with a locked door
       b. 1 key that will be able to unlock the door
       c. 10 keys that will not be able to unlock the door
    2. 10 kids will be chosen to compete in this game. WINNER – 1 CONSOLATION PRIZES – 9
    3. Each kid will be asked to pick 1 key. They will line up to try to open the door using the key they picked.
    4. If none of the first 10 keys picked by the kids can open the door, each kid will again be given the chance to pick another key from the remaining 10.
    5. The kid who picked the key that can open the door will be the winner of the grand prize.
  b. Prizes
    1. The winner will be given a claim stub that will entitle him to receive the following prizes:
       a. PC set with printer
    2. The other 9 kids will be able to receive Php 500 Jollibee GC each as consolation prize.
    3. Prizes are non-convertible & non-transferable.
  c. Redemption or claim of prizes
    1. The consolation prizes will be given to the non-winners immediately after the game.
    2. The winner of the grand prize will be notified via telegram or registered mail as to when and where he can claim his prize.
    3. Grand Prize will only be awarded to the person whose name appears on the claim stub given to the winner after the game. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from notification of winner will be forfeited in favor of Jollibee Foods Corporation with prior approval from DTI.
    4. Redemption Center: Saga Events
       3F Angilo Bldg. 715-A Shaw Blvd. Wack-Wack Mandaluyong City Philippines
    5. In claiming of the grand prize, the winner must present the claim stub, original notification (telegram or registered mail from Jollibee Foods Corporation and/or Saga Events, and must present two (2) original valid identification documents (Driver's License, Passport, Birth Certificate, TIN ID, Company ID, student ID and SSS ID).
    6. In case the winner of the grand prize is unable to present two (2) original and valid ID's or documents stated above, he must submit sworn affidavits, executed by two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his identity, and a certification from the responsible municipality/city official certifying that he is a resident of the said municipality/city.
    7. In cases wherein the winner of the grand prize cannot personally claim his prize for any reason, he can send a proxy on his behalf. The proxy should be able to present the following:
       - A letter of authorization duly signed by the winner, nominating the proxy as the acknowledged recipient of the prize on the winner's behalf
       - Two (2) original and valid ID's (Driver's License, passport, TIN ID, company ID, student ID, and SSS ID) of the winner
       - Two (2) original and valid ID's (Driver's license, passport, TIN ID, company ID, student ID, and SSS ID) of the proxy
       - Original copy of the notification (telegram or registered mail from Jollibee Foods Corporation and/or Saga Events.
- Game #3: Find Your Mommy (2:00 to 2:30 pm)
  a. Mechanics
    1. Saga Events will provide the following items for the game:
       a. 10 blindfolds for kids
    2. 10 teams will be formed to compete in this game. Each team is composed of a kid and his/ her mother. WINNER – 1 parent, 1 kid, CONSOLATION PRIZES – 9 parents, 9 kids
    3. Mothers will be asked to form a line on one side of the activity area.
    4. Kids will be blindfolded and will be asked to find their mothers from the line.
    5. The first kid to find his/ her mother will be the winner.
  b. Prizes
    1. The winning team will receive the following prizes:
       a. Washing Machine for Mommy
       b. Bike for the child
    2. The other 9 teams will receive the following consolation prizes:
       a. Php 500 Jollibee GC for each team member
    3. Prizes are non-convertible & non-transferable
  c. Prizes for Find Your Mommy will be given to the participants immediately after the game.
- Each event attendee can only win once. If the attendee already won in one game, they will not be allowed to join the other games.
- All decision of Jollibee Foods Corporation and its agents are final and no objections will be entertained.
- Employees of Jollibee Foods Corporation, their affiliates, distributors, advertising and promotional agencies, as well as their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity, and DTI are not eligible to participate in this promotion.
- These terms and conditions settle the rules for participating in the contestant and are officially contractually binding.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4886, Series of 2007

PICKY Moms' Seafood and Deli is a haven for hard-to-find Filipino delicacies from all over the country.

ANDOY'S Best bottled gourmet *balut* in several variants

SWEET dreams are made of these.

CARE for Picky Moms' civet coffee?

Manila's Chatuchak

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

TIENDESITAS IS ALL SET FOR the pre-holiday shopping rush with 10 relatively new attractions that offer shopping-mad Filipinos some of the latest and perhaps most affordable fashion, novelty, home and food items.

Located at the corner of Julia Vargas Avenue and C5 in Pasig, the 18.5-hectare Tiendesitas is dubbed by its developers as Metro Manila's answer to Bangkok's Chatuchak market. But unlike Chatuchak, which is open only during weekends, Tiendesitas is open every day of the week.

Although most tenants welcome haggling, Tiendesitas is definitely a cleaner and more orderly place than even the most celebrated Bangkok market. It also offers customers safe and adequate parking spaces.

As of last count, its 12 Maranao-inspired pavilions—which resemble giant nipa huts sans walls—house close to 450 traders, most of them entrepreneurs from various parts of the country. A sample:

Napa Handicrafts

Owned and managed by Bicolano Jay Napa, the store at Tiendesitas' Novelty Village features area rugs, trays, organizers, picture frames, mirrors, statement chairs, and various accent pieces made of woven abaca, wicker and sea grass.

Designed by Napa himself, the items are ideal and attractive conversation pieces in any home whether here or abroad. As such, Napa Handicrafts has a wide following among foreigners and Filipinos now based overseas.

Indigeno

Like most entrepreneurs, owner Bobby Bautista started producing all sorts of desk and office organizers made of woven *pandan* and abaca for the local market. It didn't take long for him and his collaborators to start exporting these items.

By the time Indigeno managed to break into the international scene, its local sales had started to pick up as well, prompting Bautista to open a store at Tiendesitas' Novelty Village. The range of merchandise also includes decorative boxes in various sizes and photo albums fashioned from strips of abaca.

Marine Concept

Conceptualized by RTW designer Heidi del Rosario, Marine Concept features trendy ladies' separates made of such breathable fabrics as cotton and silk blend in basic as well as offbeat colors.

Marine Concept, which is aimed at the younger market, is complemented by more mature and sophisticated offerings grouped under Blusa. One can be stylish without sacrificing comfort, says Del Rosario.

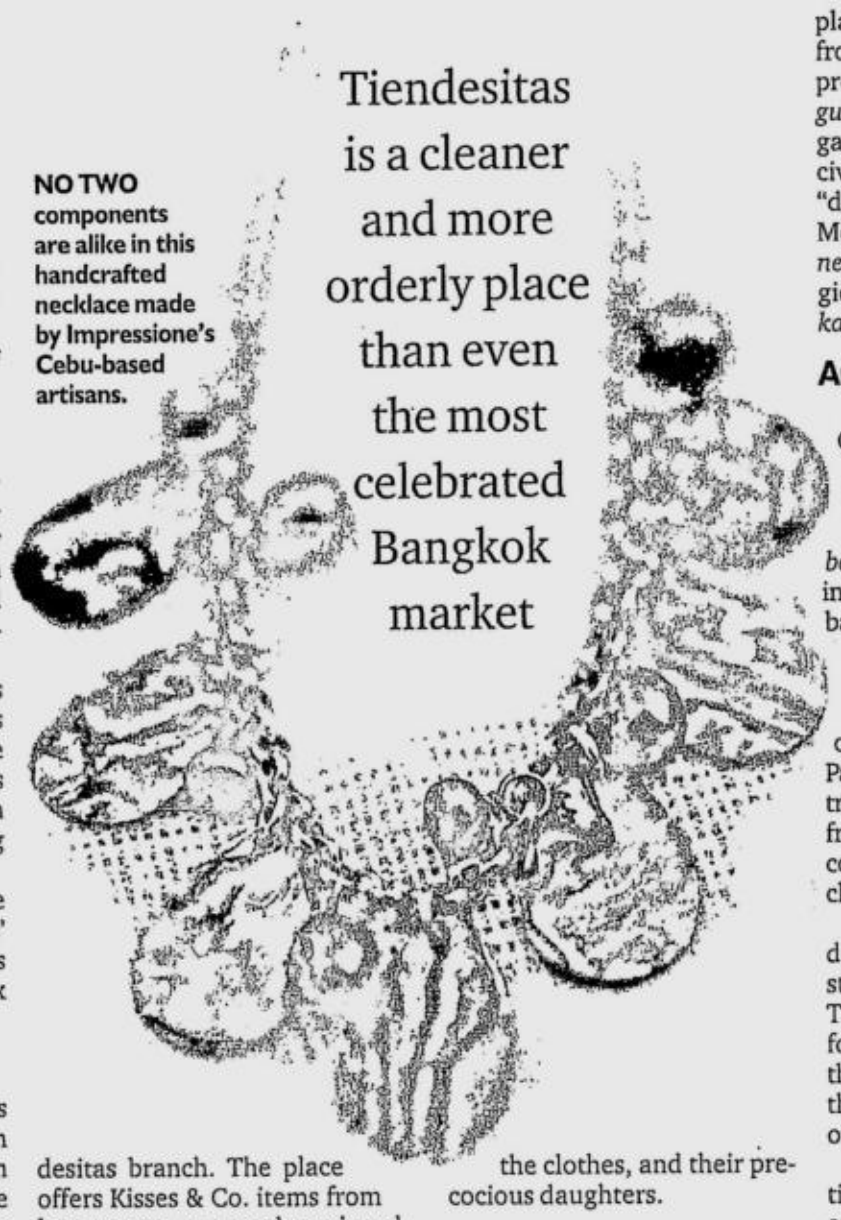
To complete the look, the store, located in Tiendesitas' Fashion Village, also offers belts made of genuine as well as faux leather.

Kisses & Co.

Kisses & Co., with branches all over Metro Manila, has been reaping a fair amount of fashion creed courtesy of high-profile endorser Ruffa Gutierrez. But like a good number of tenants in Tiendesitas, the brand started out with a single store at the Greenhills Shopping Center (Tiendesitas' sister company better known by the initials GSC).

These days, Kisses & Co. carries a full line of fashion apparel, including skirts and dresses. While owner Anthony Gana takes care of the bottom line, his wife Jocelyn heads the brand's design team. If the store's clothes are good enough for Ruffa, then they're probably good enough for most women.

By the way, the brand's lone "outlet store" is a mere three meters or so away from its Tiendesitas branch. The place offers Kisses & Co. items from last season at greatly reduced prices.



NO TWO components are alike in this handcrafted necklace made by Impressione's Cebu-based artisans.

Tiendesitas is a cleaner and more orderly place than even the most celebrated Bangkok market

Jersey

After spending a couple of years in the retail biz, first at GSC, Jeng Lipana has become an expert at appealing to Jersey's young yet discriminating customers composed of girls ages 1-12.

As head of the brand's design team, Lipana, together with husband EJ, fashions miniature versions of ladies' clothes made of colorful and comfortable materials such as cotton jersey and pique. Thus, Jersey's line of girls' dresses and separates appeals to both fashion-conscious moms, who select and pay for the clothes, and their precocious daughters.

Impressione

Proudly designed and crafted in Cebu, Impressione features a variety of semiprecious as well as fancy jewelry pieces made of various materials, from freshwater pearls to crystals, bones to shells, horns to woods. Necklaces are either gold- or brass-plated, as are dangling and stud earrings.

Since it set up shop at Tiendesitas almost a year ago, Impressione has become a favorite haunt of *balikbayan* and tourist alike. Visitors usually buy items by the dozen to bring home as gifts to family and friends. The store also caters to a growing number of local patrons, who either go for dainty pieces or opt for chunky ones in the most attention-grabbing styles.

Shoebox

One of several "imports" from Marikina, Shoebox offers a range of ladies' casual shoes in the hippest color combinations and styles, and made either of faux leather or canvass. There are wedges and platforms aplenty, adorned with braided abaca as well as ballet flats and moccasins.

Picky Moms' Seafood and Deli

If you're craving for hard-to-find native delicacies, then Picky Moms' Seafood and Deli is the place to go to. Owned and managed by Aileen Elbo, the place offers a diverse mix of frozen and processed food products such as Bonuan *bangus* (milkfish), Pinakurat vinegar and the exotic Philippine civet coffee. Other delicious but "deadly" food items in Picky Moms' list of offerings are *bagnet chicharon* from the Ilocos region and bottled *taba ng talangka* from Pampanga.

Andoy's Best

Andy Concio, president of Concio's Food Products and a native of Pateros, was thinking of ways to save his town's trademark but beleaguered *balut* after Pateros' duck-raising industry was decimated by urban blight a few decades ago.

Since then, the people of Pateros have had to buy duck eggs to turn into *balut* from other provinces, particularly Pampanga. Even this age-old tradition, however, isn't spared from competition posed by copycat towns and cities selling cheaper but more inferior *balut*.

At the same time, it's quite difficult for dealers like him to stock up on fresh duck eggs. The eggs can't be more than four days old if you want to turn them into *balut*. Once cooked, the delicacy has a shelf life of only two to three days.

Concio decided to go proactive by thinking of ways to preserve the *balut* and eventually export them. He finally succeeded in bottling them sometime last year. Under the label Andoy's Best, Philippine bottled *balut* comes in brine as well as such sauces as *caldereta*, *adobo* and *afritada*.

He's now working on having them exported to the United States and other countries with huge Filipino populations. In the meantime, the bottled products, as well as fresh *balut* and salted duck eggs, are now available at the Andoy's Best stall in Tiendesitas.

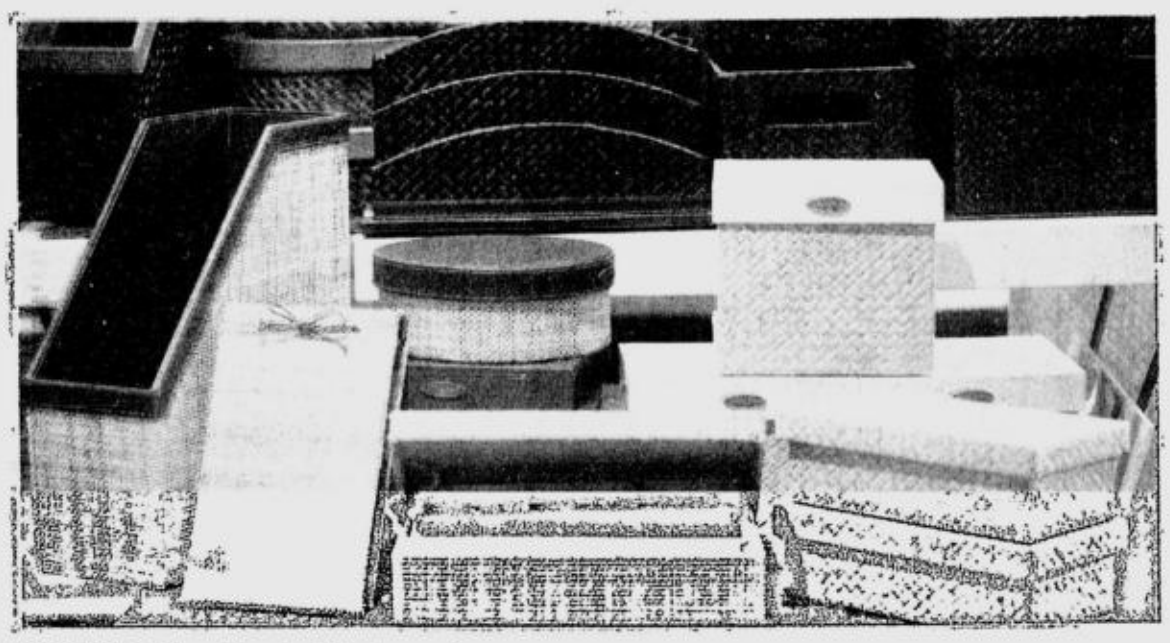
Dulcelin

Dulcelin's mango torte, cashew nougat and strawberry shortcake all originated straight out of the Morelos family's Quezon City home. Due to word of mouth, demand for the made-to-order delights steadily grew.

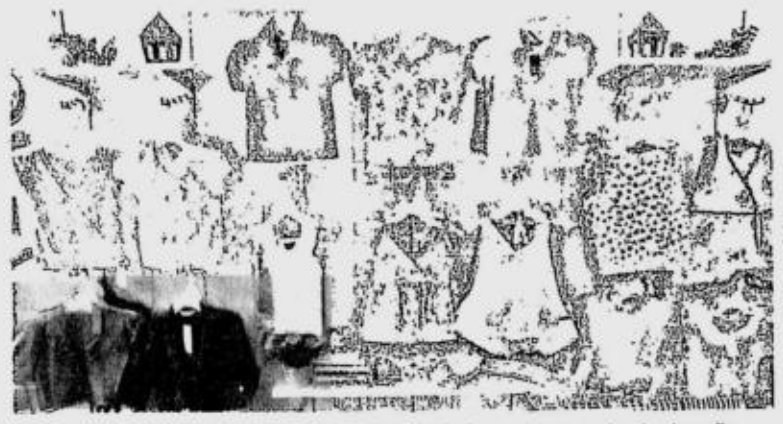
Thanks to huge, industrial-strength freezers, the refrigerated desserts, which are all based on the family matriarch's recipes, are now available at Tiendesitas. Ricky and Mico Morelos take care of marketing and distribution, while their mother, Dulcelin, has chosen to stay home and oversee production.

TRENDY casual shoes for less at Shoebox

MARINE Concept specializes in cool cotton separates for young ladies.



INDIGENO offers all sorts of desk organizers.



JERSEY'S clothing line consists of scaled-down women's clothes fit for girls.

The ride of their dreams

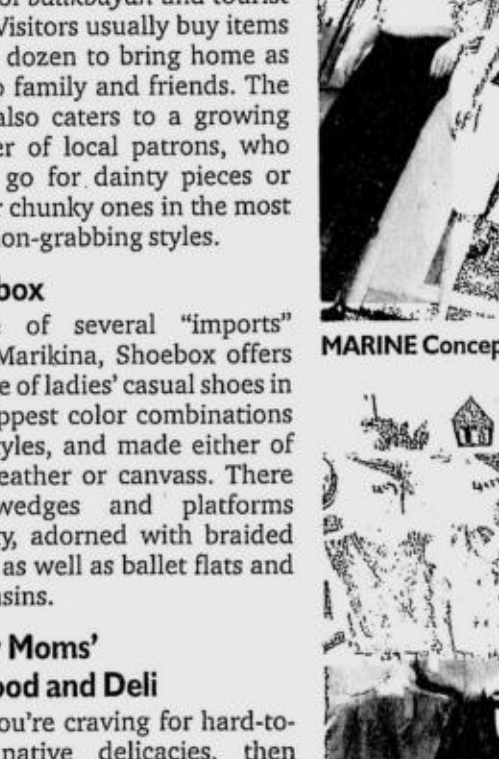
A LOT OF TALENTED young people in the country dream of becoming the next superstars of their generation.

Among them are Daryl Lagos, Qwyncy Siclot and Ava Jugueta, the three finalists who are competing for the grand prize in Coca-Cola's talent search "Ride to Fame: Yes to Your Dreams!" which airs tonight over GMA 7.

Lagos, Siclot and Jugueta have now become familiar names and faces through the top-rating talent search. More than scouting for a superstar, the show is all about showcasing the talents of these young contestants and grooming them as the next total performer—one who is a singer, a dancer and a songwriter.

The winner gets P1 million cash prize. Hosting the show are Drew Arellano and Karel Marquez.

Coca-Cola's "Ride to Fame: Yes to Your Dreams!" airs every Sunday, after "SOP," on GMA 7.



FINALISTS Daryl Lagos, Qwyncy Siclot and Ava Jugueta

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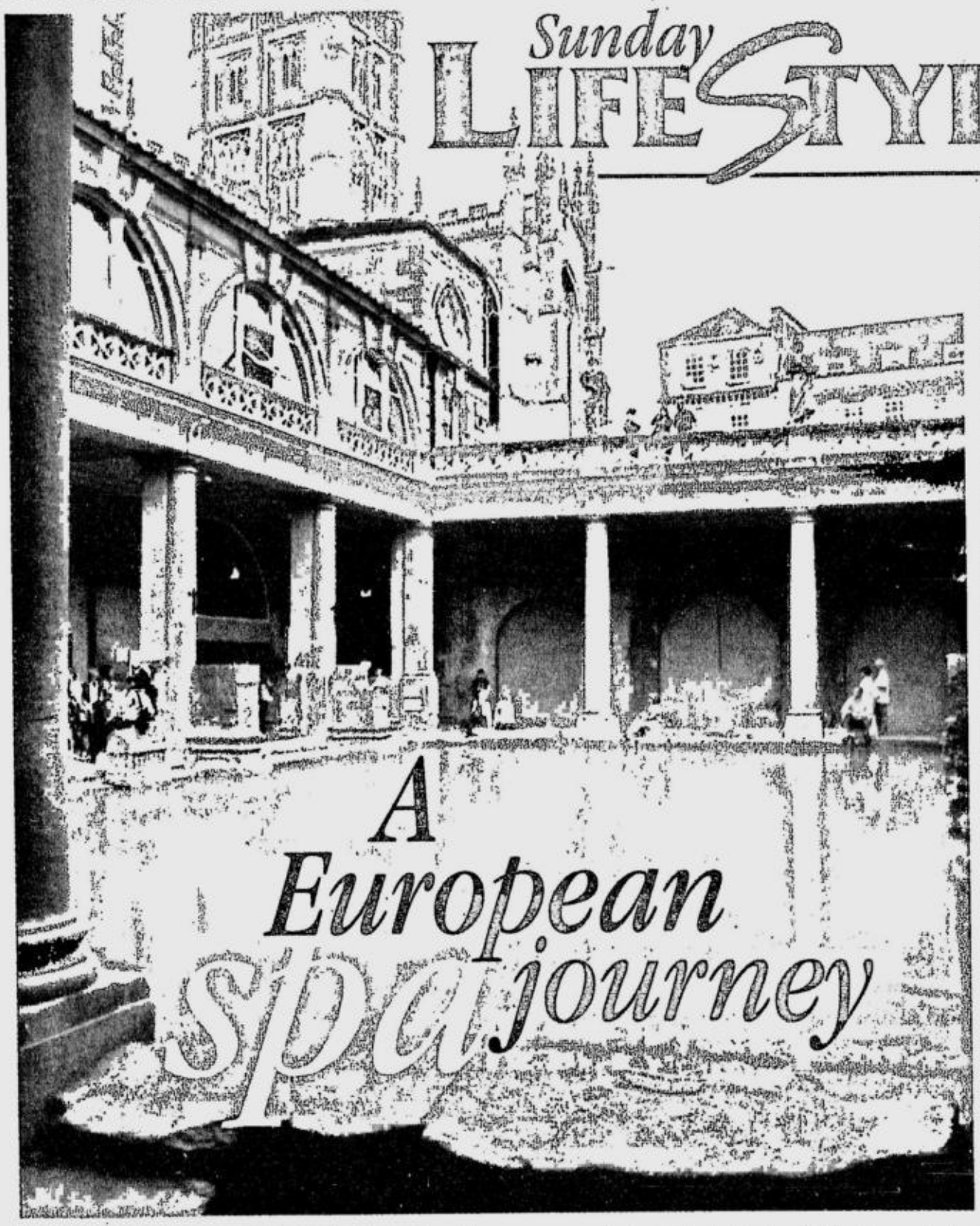


A European spa journey

ROMAN Bath in Bath, England: Pool of steaming therapeutic thermal waters enjoyed by the Romans centuries ago.

PENNYHILL spa

The spa experience in the Old World is a technical hallmark

By Catherine Brillantes-Turvill
Contributor

THE CONCEPT OF SPA CONtinues to be largely misunderstood by consumers and spa owners themselves. Is a spa equivalent to a massage? An aromatic room? A nicely designed room with massage services?

The Asian spa concept is so much known and accepted in this part of the world that as spa consultants, we decided it was time to study the spa concept in the continent where it was originally born—Europe—and where spa is truly the "salus per aquam," or health by or through water, that the acronym for the Latin words stands for.

Roman baths in England

First stop was Pennyhill Hotel and Spa, just outside London. Voted as England's 2007 Best Spa, Pennyhill is the only destination spa in the United Kingdom offering a complete thermal experience, including a tepidarium, laconium, Turkish Hammam, experience shower, ice cave, plunge pool, herbal saunas, aromatic steam rooms as well as ozone-treated indoor, outdoor and hydrotherapy pools with underwater music.

The spa alone was built at a staggering cost of $38 million. As it was a sunny day when we visited, the spa's pools were busy with guests enjoying the outdoor hydrotherapy pools.

Second stop were the original Roman baths in Bath, England. The Roman baths are a well-preserved Roman sacred site which includes the remains of the Temple of Aquae Sulis. The baths are fed by the sacred hot spring. There's a well-presented museum of artifacts found at the site.

Hot water at the Sacred Springs rises to a temperature of 60°C at the rate of 1,170,000 liters (240,000 gallons) every day and has been doing so for thousands of years. The bath complex in Bath was founded in 75 AD, fell into disrepair and was rediscovered and excavated in the late 18th century. As a spa insider, stepping into the site of the original Roman Baths truly felt like a pilgrimage to the soul of the spa world.

The Thermae Spa, our next stop, was an interesting contrast of "old and new" where the historic spa buildings, the Hot and Cross Baths, blended with the contemporary design of the New Royal Bath.

Having read much about this spa with its much publicized construction delays and budget overruns, we could see that the wait was well worth it, as evidenced by the long queues of people waiting to use the facilities.

The Thermae Spa experience starts with the Minerva Baths—a huge indoor pool with grand columns and warm mineral waters, whirlpools and massage jets. Huge aromatherapy steam rooms using dramatic contrasts of color and steam allowed us to sweat out toxins while inhaling the therapeutic aroma of essential oils.

A central waterfall shower provided a variety of experiences: light misting or a tropical shower, and for the brave, an icy cold shower. A visit to the roof-deck pool provided a beautiful view of the rooftops of Bath, while we enjoyed revitalizing neck and shoulder massages provided by the powerful water jets built into the sides of the pool.

Seeing that the majority of the clientele were senior citizens, we concluded that the Thermae Baths are obviously hugely popular with the senior crowd for its therapeutic value and its reasonable price.

Spas in Scotland

The Carrick Spa in Scotland, located in a sprawling golf course where the European Golf Open holds its tournaments, offered what we felt was a modern interpretation of the old Roman Baths. Its complete yet compact "spa experience" featured a hamam, aromatherapy steam room, tepidarium, caldarium, sauna, infrared sauna room, experience showers, an ice fountain, a beauty salon, a rooftop pool and a vitality pool overlooking the beautiful golf grounds.

We particularly enjoyed the vitality pool with its strong massage jets providing head, neck, shoulder, lower back hydrotherapy massages. We left Carrick Spa, feeling revitalized physically, but a bit weak on the pocket as the spa experience was certainly not cheap!

Baden Baden

We then headed south to the original home of spas in Baden Baden, Germany, where we visited four spas: the Dorint Spa, Spa at Brenners Hotel, Caracala Spa and Friedrichbad Spa.

It has long been a practice of the rich nobility of Europe to head for Baden Baden, a beautiful resort town in the Black Forest area in Southern Germany visited by the rich and famous who to this day bathe in its therapeutic mineral waters, reputed to be replete in health benefits. Thermal water in Baden Baden flows from 12 springs and reaches temperatures of up to 68 C.

The Dorint and the Brenners Spa are designed more like the luxurious hotel spas that we know in Asia, featuring indoor pools and massage and spa treatments using European and Asian spa and skin care brands. Massage treatments average $126 for a one-hour massage.

Baden Baden is the home of Biodroga and Futuresse, exceptional spa brands which use the famed mineral waters of the region in their formulations and cosmetic technology.

Caracala

The Caracala Spa, named after the Roman Emperor, is a 3000 sqm complex designed like an ancient temple, featuring outdoor and indoor marble heated pools, a counter-current pool, whirlpools, a rock grotto with hot and cold water, a regenerating aroma steam bath and a saltwater inhalation room. Twelve natural springs rise from depths of around 6,500 feet.

Again we noted the numerous elderly European customers "taking to the waters" for its health benefits. I signed up for a massage to compare their massage techniques with Asia and was surprised to see how basic the facilities were in their massage room: a bare massage bed, a sheet to cover the bed and open shelves for the sheets. The male therapist was from East Germany and his massage was very skillful. We left feeling exceedingly healthy after two hours in the healing waters.

THE AUTHOR in front of a fountain of mineral water in the German resort of Baden Baden

Friedrichsbad Spa was a unique experience, featuring a bathing experience which is over 130 years old. This temple of well-being opened in 1877 and at the time was considered the most modern bathing house in all of Europe.

One has to be a bit more daring for a visit to this spa, as nudity is a requirement for the two-hour visit.

The Friedrichbad Spa Experience has 17 different stages to follow in sequence: showers, warm and hot air baths at different temperatures, a soap and brush massage, thermal kinotherapeutic baths and a cold water bath.

Spa under the frescoes

It was humbling to realize that I was bathing underneath the same frescoes and artwork in the ceilings which had been there for over a century. The domed ceiling of the heated pool is breathtaking.

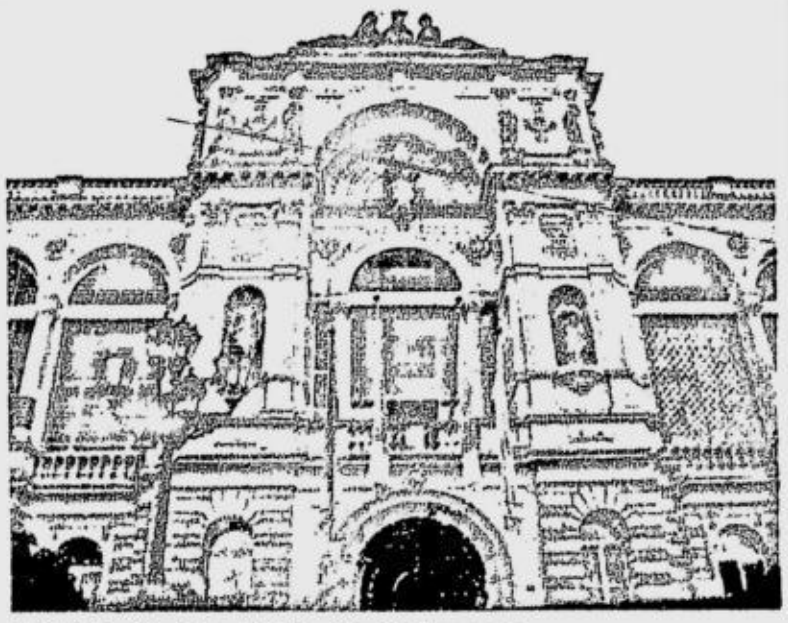
A unique feature of the Friedreichsbad spa experience is the body brushing and soaping graciously but efficiently executed by the spa attendants. This experience requires you to lie on a heated marble counter, where you are thoroughly soaped and brushed (front and back) by the spa attendant—a bit like being a baby again.

After the soaping, it was a dreamy journey from one room to another where heated pools and lounges in huge heated rooms ensured that the pores of your body opened up, your circulation improved, your metabolism enhanced and you emerged a healthier and detoxified human being.

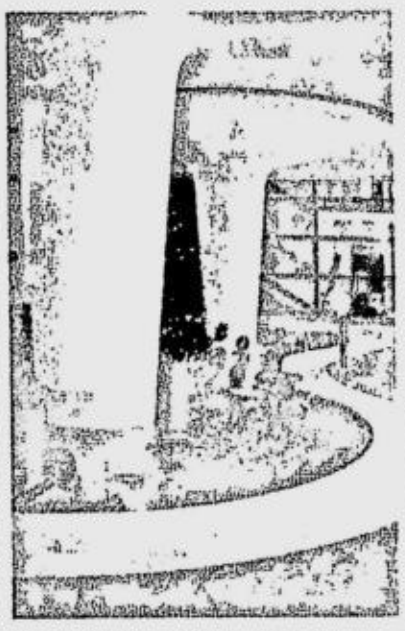
What did we discover after our European spa journey? How does Asia compare to Europe when it comes to spas?

The Asian spa experience is personal, gracious and full of warmth and hospitality. Our spa experience in Europe was strong in technical excellence, efficiency and therapeutic use of water. While the spas in Europe were expensive and breathtaking, the experience could be enhanced by a more personal touch by the staff and by more attention to detail. The Asian spa experience abounds in such: gracious staff, amazing spa accessories which place much attention to detail.

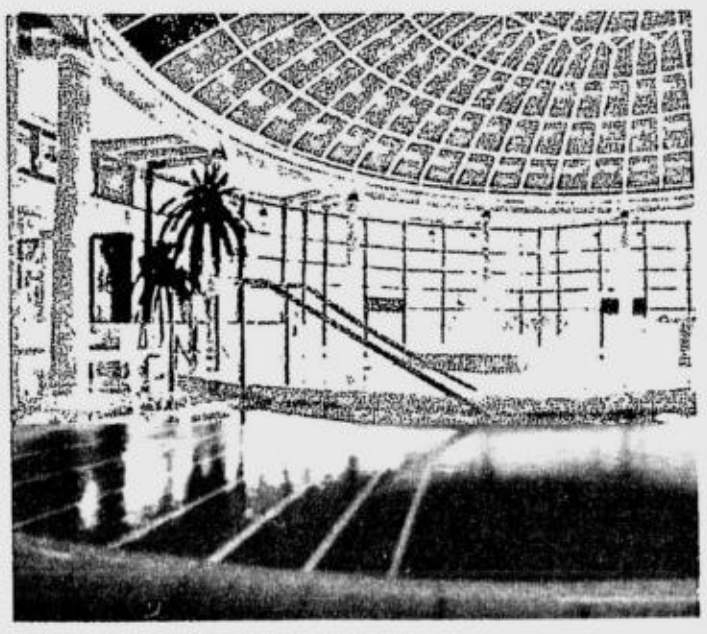
Much can be gained by combining the two: the European technical excellence and Asian hospitality. This combination, plus the ingrained Filipino hospitality and healing hands can certainly make the Philippines a key player in the spa industry.



FAÇADE of the Friedrichsbad Spa in Germany



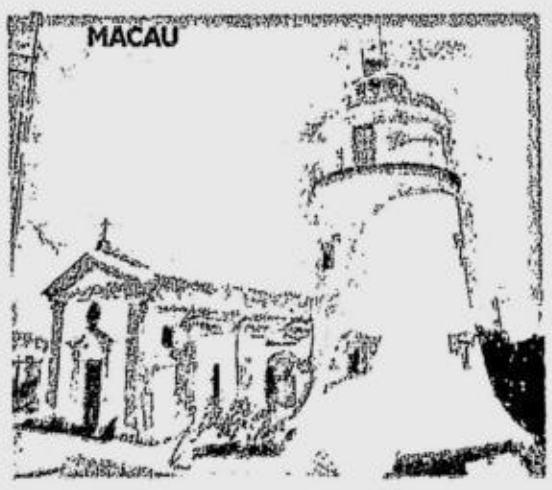
THERMAE Spa minerva bath



INSIDE the 3000 sqm Caracala Spa

FUTURESSE room at the Brenners

TravelBriefs



Macau roadshow

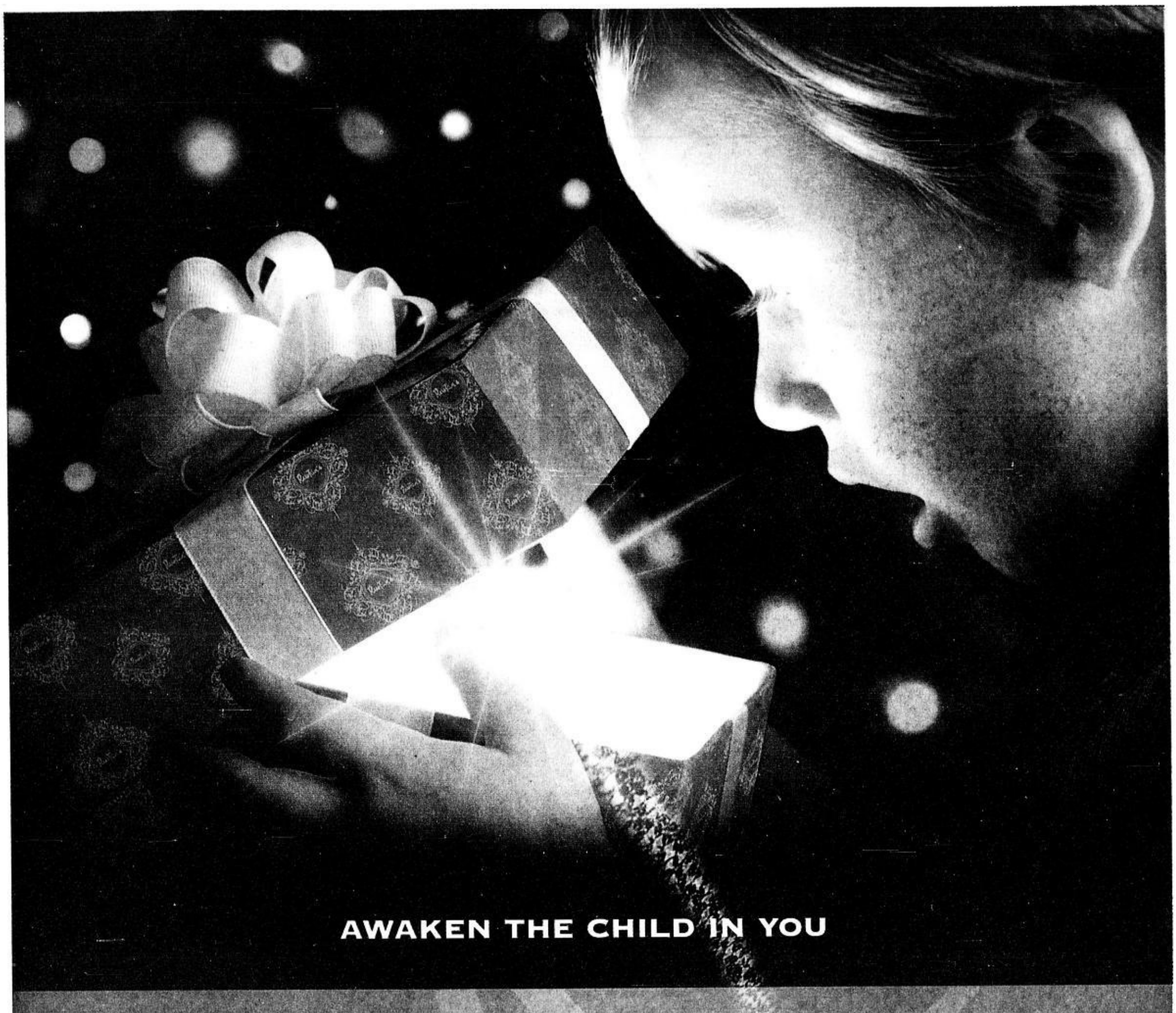
SAVOR THE SIGHTS, SCENES, TASTES and myriad attractions of Macau in Metro Manila via a roadshow titled "Experience Macau" Nov. 9-11, Greenbelt 3 Lobby Area; Nov. 16-18, Alabang Town Center Activity Area; and Nov. 30-Dec. 2, The Block, Level 2, North Edsa. Bring the whole family, and find a host of options and value-for-money tour packages for your next vacation (Call 8122595 and 8130947; or visit www.macau-tourism.gov.mo).

Halloween in Boracay

IF YOU ARE IN BORACAY, DROP BY Discovery Shores and take part in its special Halloween activities. Kids will get to enjoy horror in paradise at the Halloween party, Oct. 29, 6 p.m., at the hotel's Beach Front. Kids can go trick or treating and visit the Horror Booths. Discovery Shores Boracay's "Spooktacular Halloween" fun party can be enjoyed at P250 net per person. Boracay visitors can try the Special Halloween Buffet 7-10 p.m. until Oct. 31 at the Sands Restaurant for only P750 ++ per person (7208888/ 6838248/6838392 or 63-36-2884500).

Meeting place in Tagaytay

TAGAYTAY RESIDENCE INN AT KM. 65 Barrio Neogan, Tagaytay City offers overnight accommodation. It is suitable for planning session with its audio visual facilities. Residence Inn serves native and other Oriental dishes at affordable prices. Overlooking Taal Lake, it has a mini zoo, as well as serpentarium, aviary, honey bee farm, bonsai garden, game room, activity area, playground, souvenir shops and food kiosk. On Sundays and holidays, it offers special entertainment like magic show, pantomime, etc. (8999824 or 8957142)



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The triumph of one

HAPPY kids of the White Cross after our "Celebrity Duets" taping

It was fantastic that although we all wanted to win in 'Celebrity Duets,' we also enjoyed each other's company

THE TRIUMPH/ D4

Photos by Pia Sison

IN THE BEGINNING, WE WERE EIGHT.

Eight accomplished individuals, each respected in his/her own field of expertise, each an amateur singer. And each willing to brave singing before millions of TV watchers on GMA's new reality show, "Celebrity Duets."

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

I was invited on the show by Beverly Hills 6750 Beauty Center owner **Jessica Bunevacz**, and in turn, I convinced Embassy Club owner **Tim Yap** to join. None of us had ever joined a TV contest, and with my constantly croaky voice, it was intimidating to meet the good singers among us, like fashion designer **Frederick Peralta** and talent manager **Wyngard Tracy**.

Nevertheless, GMA SVP for Entertainment **Wilma Galvante** convinced all of us that the new show would be all for fun. Fremantle Media, the same brains behind such hits as "American Idol," conceived of "Celebrity Duets" as a team effort between amateur singers and professionals, thus taking some of the pressure off.

Going for my voice assessment on the first day, I could not even choose an appropriate song without the help of **Georgy Sibal**, my high school classmate and now a GMA music supervisor. My rendition of the Carpenters' "Close to You" sounded like a rap version, so one of the technicians gave me some valuable advice: Stick to the **Bonnie Taylor** or **Cyndi Lauper** genre.

Since I couldn't go shopping and buy a voice, instead I went for a Wow! Magic Sing and hired two voice coaches, **Sam Evangelista** and **Sweet Tiongson** of The Company. GMA also provided another voice coach, **Sushi Reyes**. So with my three "S" coaches, Sweet Sushi Sam, I was ready for battle!

Lifestyle change

Joining the contest also required a lifestyle change. The voice must be preserved, so I took out chocolates, citrus fruits and ice cream from my diet. I cut down on social events so I could sleep early, and didn't use aircon so my throat wouldn't get cold. I also discovered a Chinese herbal candy, Pei Pa Koa, which is supposed to heal the throat.

At the end of the contest, judge **Mitch Valdes** told me that in reality, anything in moderation is fine, including chocolates, fruits and occasional ice cream. Sleeping early was good, but the aircon deletion was unnecessary as it was more important to avoid constant temperature changes for the throat.

As for the Pei Pa Koa, my husband **Dennis** showed me a recent Bureau of Food and Drugs advisory that the candy contains formaldehyde and should no longer be eaten. With all these mishaps, it's amazing that I even got to start the show!

Bb. Pilipinas-Universe **Anna Theresa Licaros** was lucky in some respects. As the first to be eliminated, she was able to return to her lifestyle soonest and was spared the additional angst and stress that the rest of us went through. Luckily, the judges were never too harsh, with maestro **Louie Ocampo** and Apo singer **Buboy Garovillo** always finding good things to say.

As the contest went on, I realized that entertainment value was probably more important than singing prowess, so I focused on costumes courtesy of fashion designers **Rajo Laurel**, **Edwin Tan** and **Pepsi Herrera**, outlandish wigs, outré false eyelashes from Shu Uemura, and props, thanks to production master **Marlon Garcia**.

My Assumption classmates **Popsie Gamboa** and **Lorvi Mapa** volunteered to be my campaign managers. They made sure our studio guests were supplied with "Tessa" T-shirts, wigs, balloons and signage. Their weekly *hakot* ranged from Assumption classmates to the Adamson University basketball team to orphans from White Cross to teachers from Taguig, the latter specially bused in, thanks to **Kaye Tinga**.

Crowd-pleasing

Choosing a song and matching it with the perfect duet partner was critical. My partners included **Kyla**, who also sang the "Pambansang Awit" at the Pacquiao fight, **Jolina Magdangal**, **Billy Crawford**, **Kitchie Nadal**, **Mike Hanopol**, **Rufa Mae Quinto**, **Aia de Leon** of Imago and **Joey G** of Side A.

But I think my most crowd-pleasing performances were "Proud Mary" with **Arnel Ignacio** and "Kiss" with **Michael V**. These guys were impressive in that they arrived with only minutes left for us to practice and yet, our performances were topnotch, even now as I re-watch the videos on YouTube.

Since text votes determined who got eliminated and who didn't, it was necessary to have text angels. These text forwarders included Metro Gaisano GM **Julie Montano**, the staff of Urban Spa, Bikram yogi **Tristan Choa**, Milky Way owner **Malu Gamboa**, Divisoria personal shopper **Johnson Yao**, the INQUIRER staff and many more, including my dedicated hubby.

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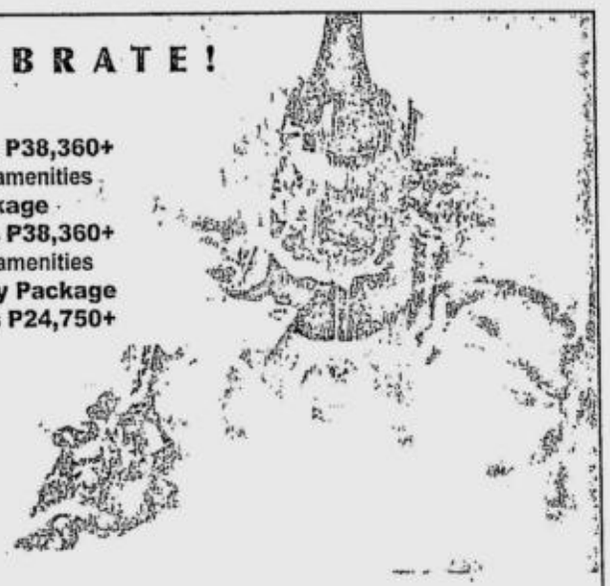

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Marivic Del Pilar, Treasury & Marketing Manager of Victory Liner

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All field and line supervisors use Sun Cellular to monitor the Victory Liner bus fleet. Even their drivers and conductors now use Sun Cellular.

"In the event of accidents, traffic or floods, they contact the head office in Manila, wherever in North Luzon they may be," says Marivic. Decision-making and reaction time is cut, and communication among the eight major terminals and sub-terminals in North Luzon is more efficient.

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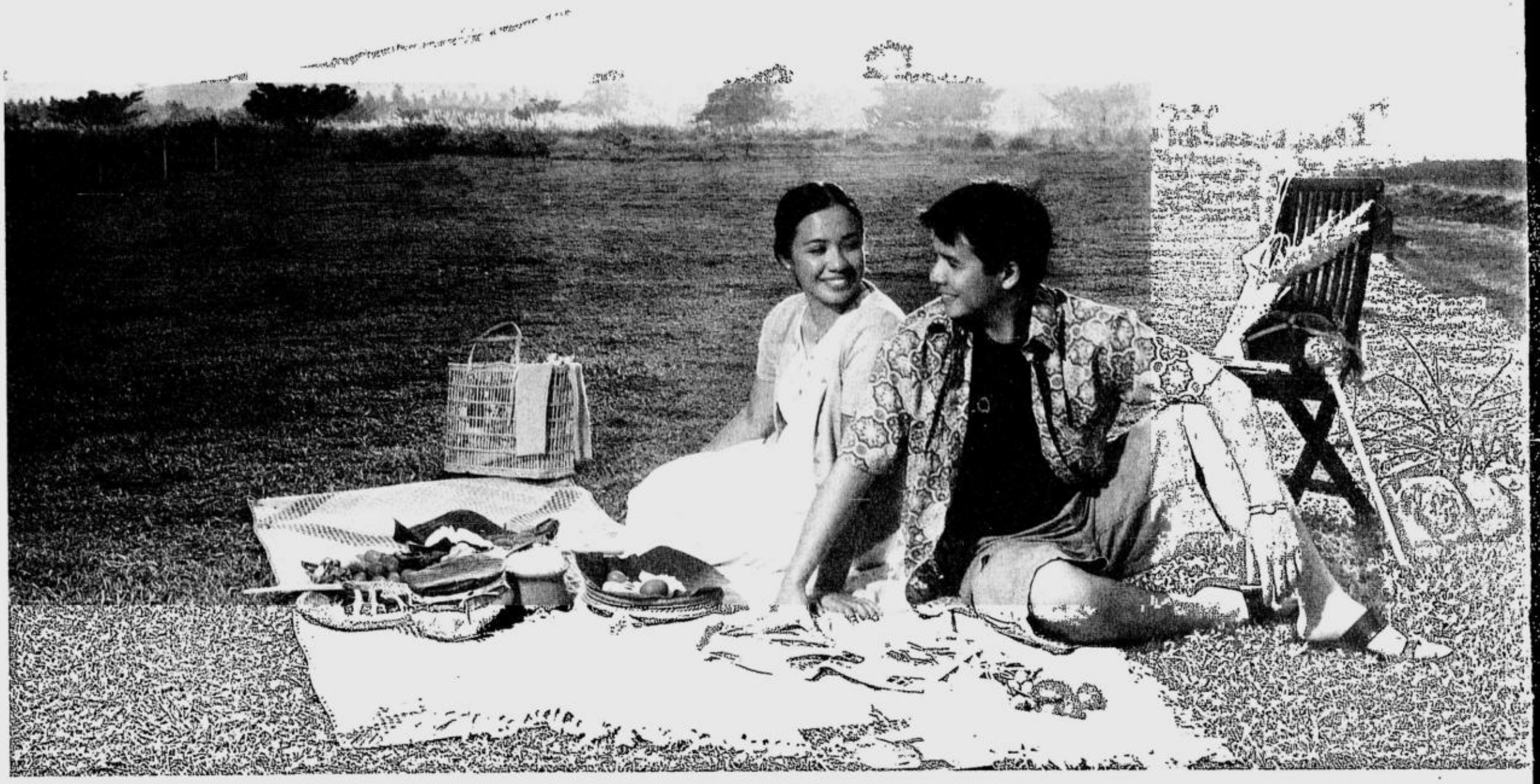


One home. A thousa

Hacienda Escudero welcomes you with a wealth of experiences and a vibrant spectrum of possibilities. Inspired by everything that is truly Filipino, Hacienda Escudero is a place you will definitely want to call home.

The Filipino experience

A thousand stories, old and new, are waiting to be told at Hacienda Escudero, a land rich in history and natural splendor. The tales unfold with the wealth of the past and the present, and the promise of a future filled with possibilities.

Integrating Filipino culture into every aspect of living, Hacienda Escudero is a 415-hectare mixed-use development weaving a rich plantation with fully-equipped resort amenities and stately residential estates. A charming, old-world town amidst refined, modern facilities.

Situated 1.5 hours from Alabang and spanning three municipalities in Laguna and Quezon, the property is graced with panoramic views of Mt. Banahaw, Mt. San Cristobal, and Mt. Malarayat, and the vibrancy of rivers Bulakin and Labasin.

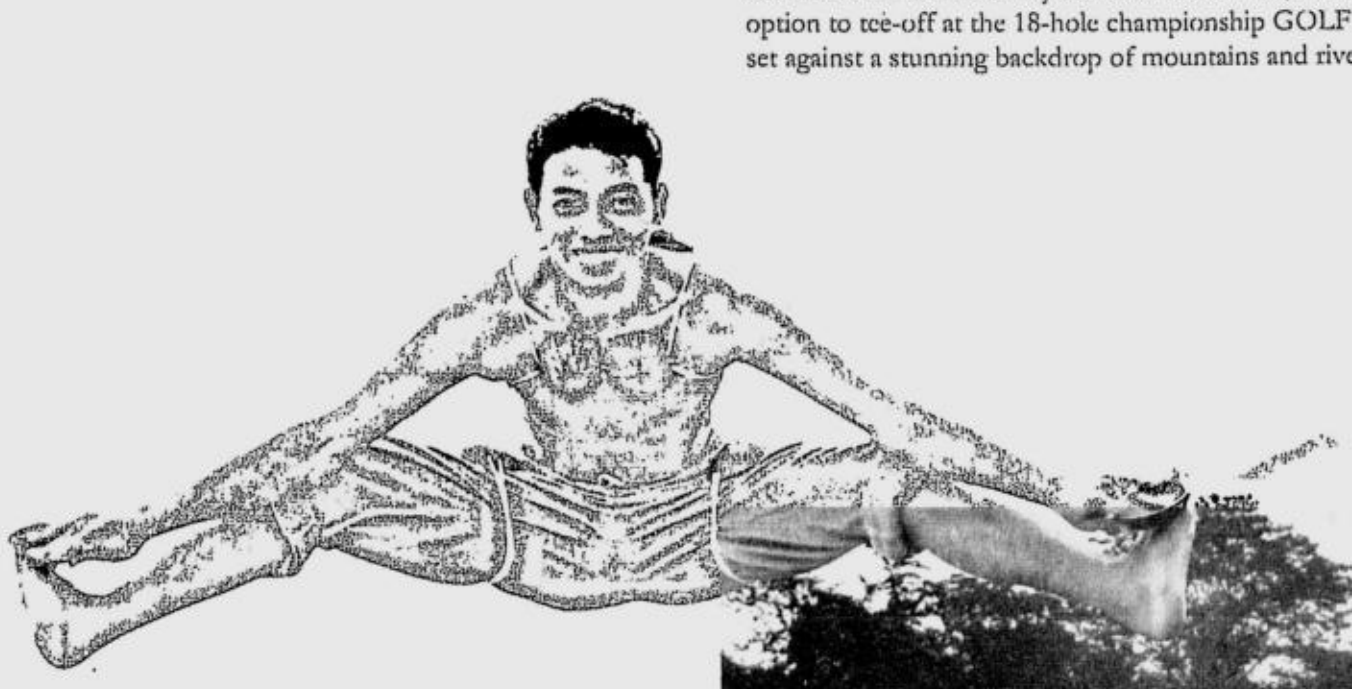
With its devotion to rich cultural heritage, Hacienda Escudero is set on becoming the country's premier leisure destination, an icon of Philippine tourism, and a distinct embodiment of Filipino living.

An idyllic haven

Hacienda Escudero pampers its residents with the best of nature in every amenity—the lush greenery and soothing sound of flowing rivers at the SPA. NATURE PARKS and the tempting invitation to a relaxing morning stroll, or a bid to unwind with a late afternoon picnic with the land's natural grandeur unfolding at the scene.

A WATER PARK provides exciting attractions and refreshing adventure the whole family can look forward to; there's also the option to tee-off at the 18-hole championship GOLF COURSE set against a stunning backdrop of mountains and rivers.

With its superior amenities, a soothing rustic atmosphere, and a flair for hospitality, Hacienda Escudero is the latest, world-class window into the Filipino soul.



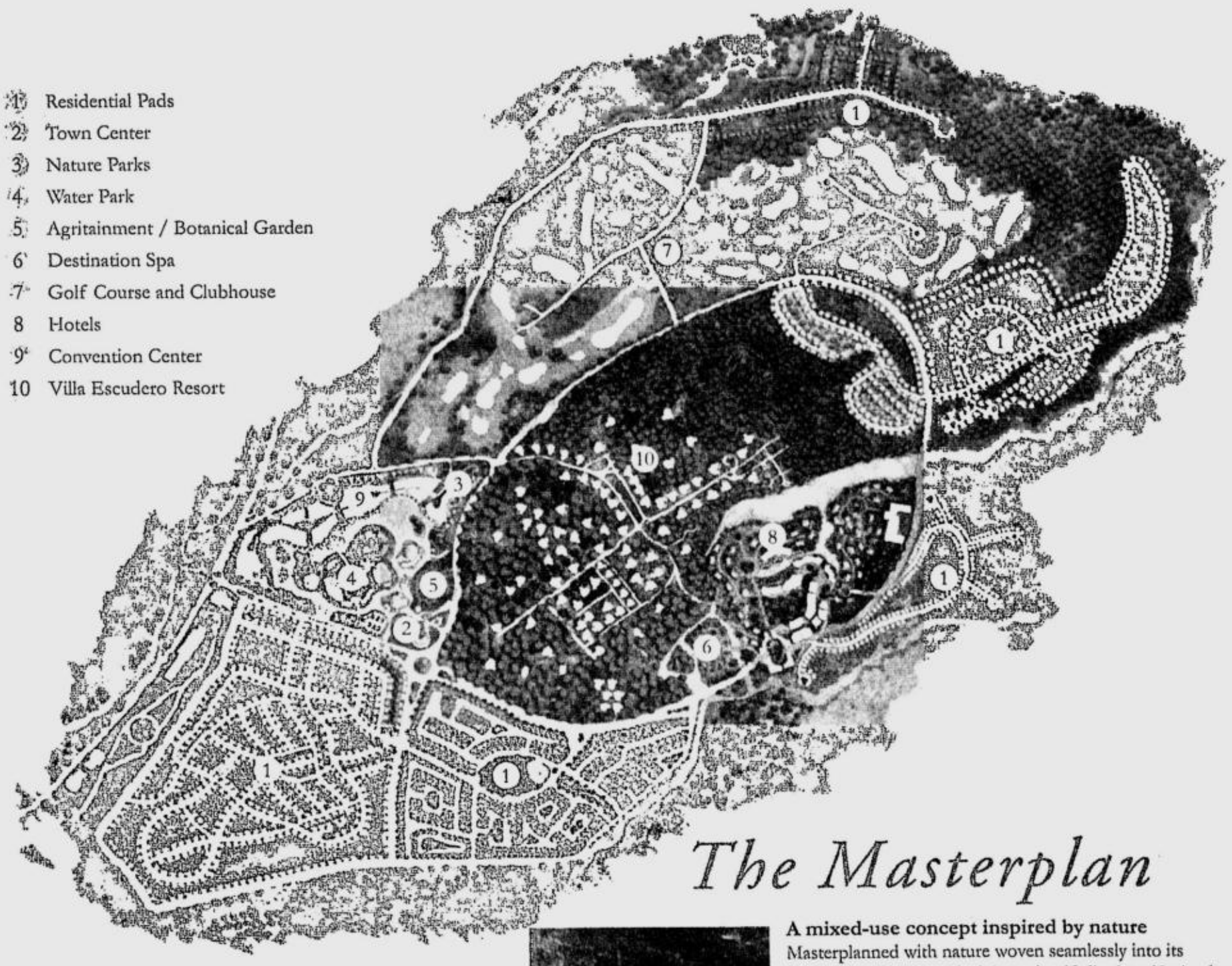
VILLA ESCUDERO

A celebration of culture

Villa Escudero is famous for its synthesis of leisure and the celebration of our national heritage. Drawing from the Southern Tagalog's vivid traditions, the Filipino spirit is celebrated through performances, tours, and handicrafts.

A coconut plantation founded in 1872, Villa Escudero provides a backdrop to showcase the country's rich cultural heritage.

1 Residential Pads
2 Town Center
3 Nature Parks
4 Water Park
5 Agritainment / Botanical Garden
6 Destination Spa
7 Golf Course and Clubhouse
8 Hotels
9 Convention Center
10 Villa Escudero Resort

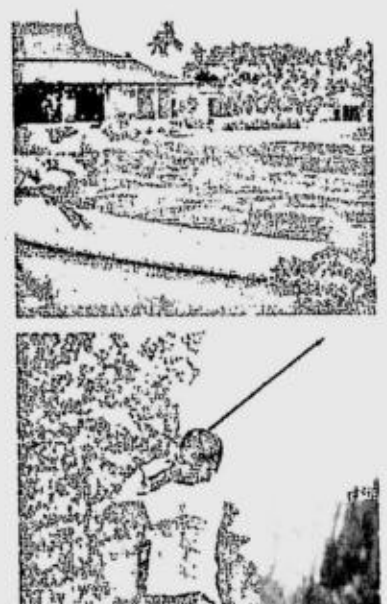


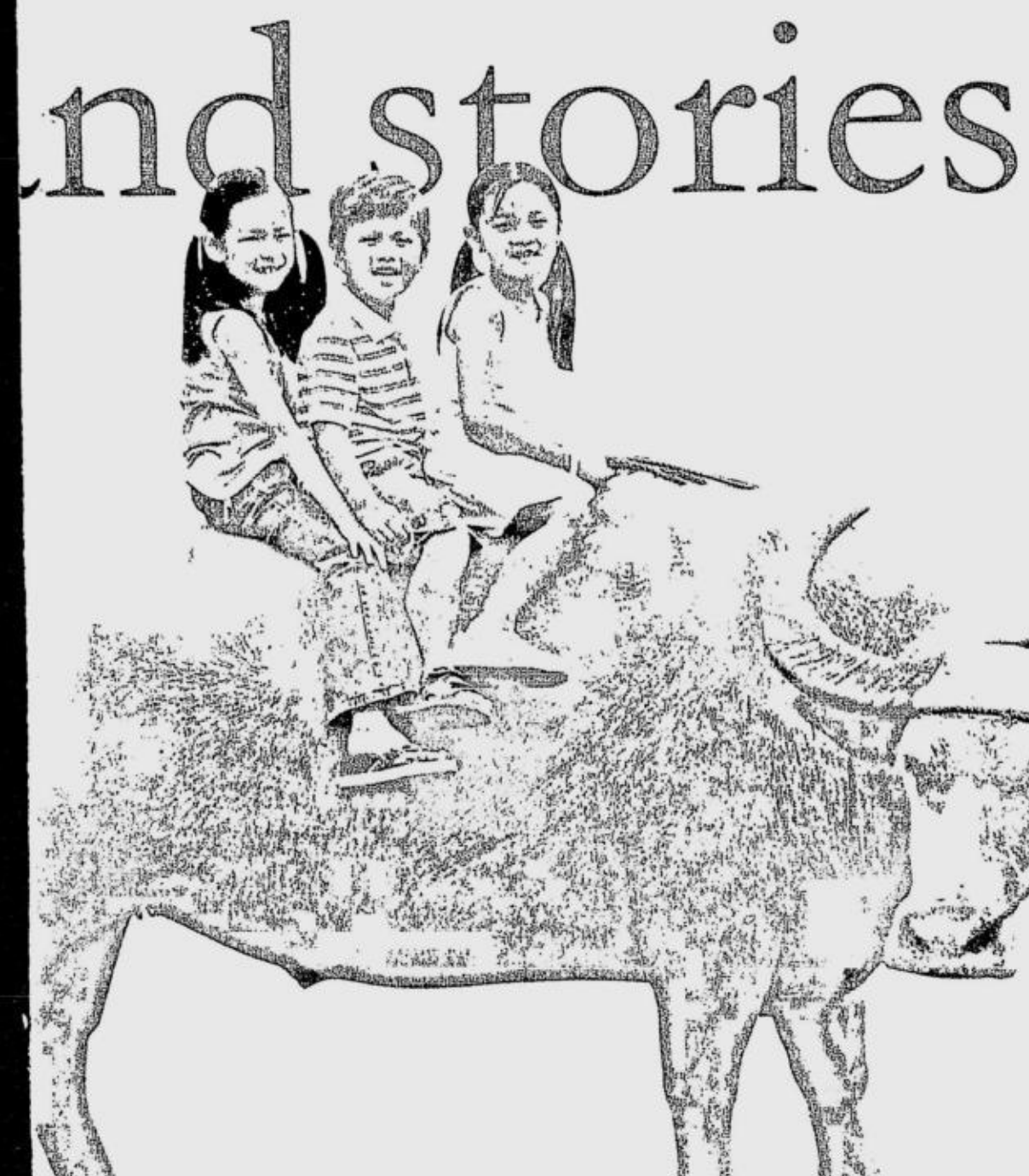
The Masterplan

A mixed-use concept inspired by nature
Masterplanned with nature woven seamlessly into its residential, commercial, civic, and golf districts, Hacienda Escudero basks in the splendor of surrounding mountains, and lakes and rivers that traverse the property. The development is equipped with exceptional leisure-tourism features: nature and water parks, hotels, spas, shopping and dining facilities, and a golf course.

Hacienda Escudero preserves its groves of coconut trees, fruit trees, and flowering plants for the enjoyment of residents and future generations.

Residential areas
Phase 1 of Aldea de Palmeral residential area features sprawling plantation lots situated close to the Hacienda Escudero clubhouse. Phase 2 is a refreshing community invigorated by the presence of lakes, and connected by meandering streams and brooks.

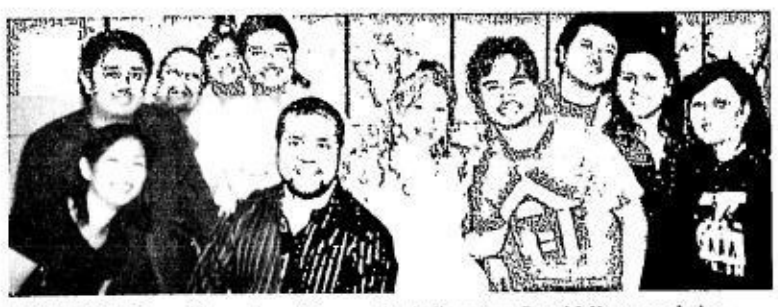




BAND practice with guest artists Mike Hanopol and Martin Nievera and the "Celebrity Duets" team

WONDERFUL guest fans, Malu Gamboa, Anton Barretto, Rajo Laurel, Nix Alañon, Emily Petrocelli and the Adamson basketball team

ASSUMPTION HS Batch '81 with birthday cake by Penk Ching



PARTNER Arnel Ignacio with musical director Raul Mitra and the band members and backup singers

CAMPAIGN manager Popsie Gamboa, Marni Ocampo, Bianca Santos, Manny Capulla and production designer Marlon Garcia with other fans

TIVOLI Restaurant dinner affair. Edwin Tan, Jessica and David Bunevacz, Gigi Santiago Lara, Tim Yap, Sea Princess, Darling de Jesus, Wyngard Tracy, Vicki Belo, Hayden Kho Jr. and Pepsi Herrera

The triumph of one

From page D1

SUPERB judges Boboy Garovillo, Mitch Valdes and Louie Ocampo

"CELEBRITY Duets" hosts Ogie Alcasid and Regine Velasquez showing the winning name

DIREK Louie Ignacio with the Celebrity Duets contestants

GMA SVP for Entertainment Wilma Galvante

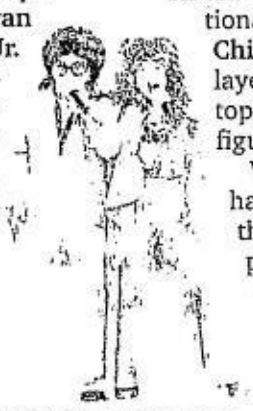
VERY special family supporters Dennis Valdes and cute Athena

One of the best parts of the contest was the friendships made along the way. It was priceless to bond with the band members and backup singers, led by musical director **Raul Mitra**, who is married to **Cacai Velasquez**, the sister of host **Regine**. It was cool to see the new couple, **Ogie** and Regine, do their first joint-hosting gig.

Even in the heat of competition, it was great to get to know the two doctors in the competition, Dr. **Manny Calayan** and Dr. **Hayden Kho Jr.** Doc Manny was the early, formidable frontrunner while Belo Group's Hayden was true eye candy, a good-looking doc whose goal is to also make you look good.

Long season

I realize now that a TV season is a long one, requiring true dedication. Over the 11 weeks of "Celebrity Duets," two contestants even celebrated birthdays on the show. For my 20-second on-air celebration, sensational cake maker **Penk Ching** brought a three-layered birthday cake topped with a Tessa figurine.



WINNING performance of Michael V. and Sea Princess

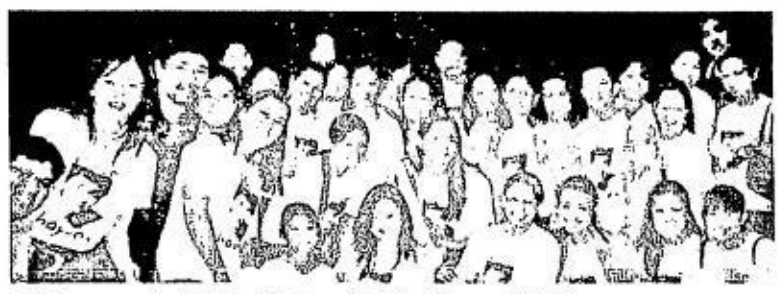
What makes me happiest is that, from the beginning, I promised to donate any prize money I might win to charity. With this goal in mind, I really tried my darndest to perform well every Saturday night. I'm looking forward to giving each charity their winnings, especially the charities of Assumption College who supported me with their texts.

One post-show evening just before the finals, the group all had a joint dinner celebration at the Tivoli Restaurant at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Cast and crew capped the night off with early morning drinks at Martinis Bar. It was fantastic that although we all wanted to win, we also all enjoyed each other's company.

In the beginning, we were eight. In the end, we were one.

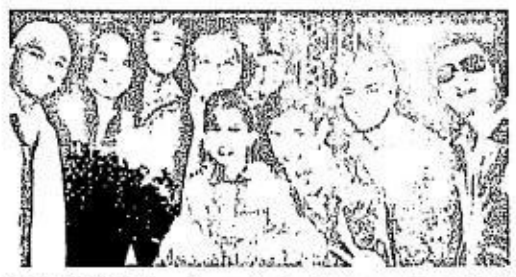
E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

FINALS Night of "Celebrity Duets" with Dr. Hayden Kho Jr., Anna Theresa Licaros, Wyngard Tracy, Jessica Bunevacz, Frederick Peralta, Tessa Valdes and Tim Yap

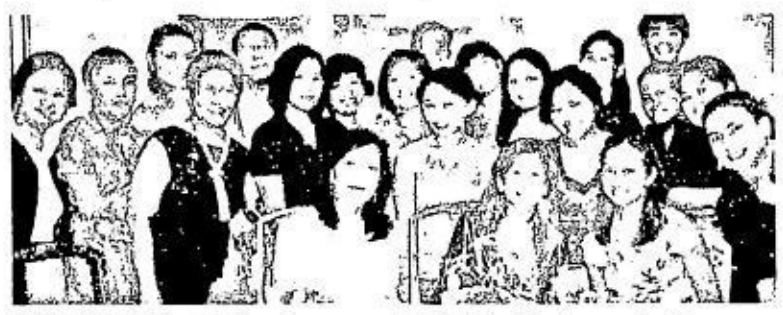


FULL support of Belo Clinics with Hayden and Vicki

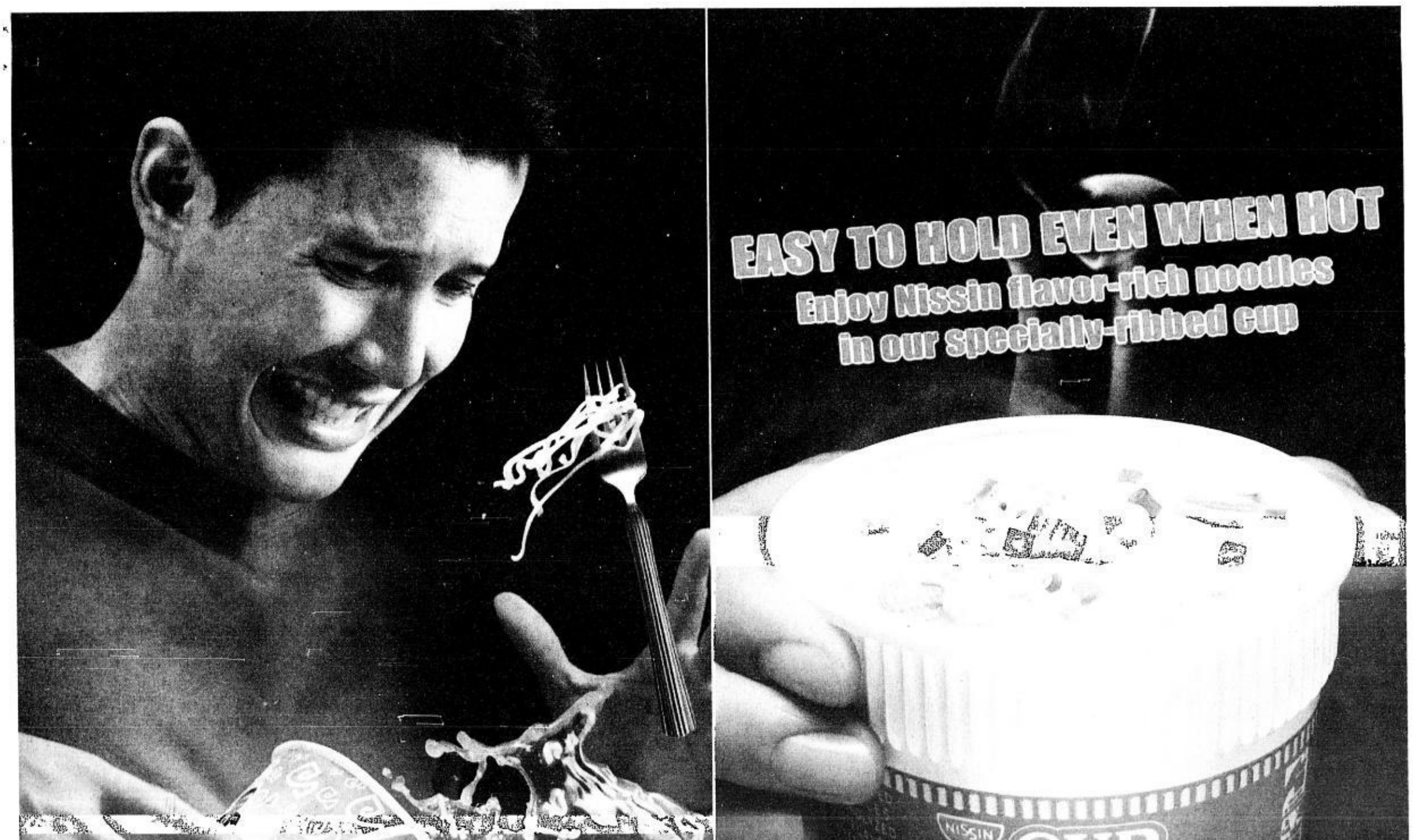
GMA voice coaches Zeb Zuniga and Sushi Reyes



CELEBRITY partners Luke Mejares, Joey G of Side A, Paolo Santos, Billy Crawford and Randy Santiago



INQUIRER Lifestyle family support in Tin Hau Restaurant with Mandarin Oriental Hotel PR Charisse Chuidian



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Eweddings

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THE NEWLYWEDS

QUINN-HÜFNER NUPTIAL

Saying 'I do' to Il Divo

IL DIVO'S "HASTA MI FINALE" was the theme song of the recent intimate and romantic wedding of Audrey Hüfner to Brian Quinn at the 19th century St. Pancratius Chapel at Paco Park.

Quinn is American while Hüfner is Filipino but was raised in Germany.

Reception followed at Le Soufflé at The Fort. Chef and owner Andreas Katzer prepared a buffet with pan-fried goose liver and prawn and tomato bisque for starters.

Joyce Aguilar of 2171 Floral Creations

IL DIVO/ E2

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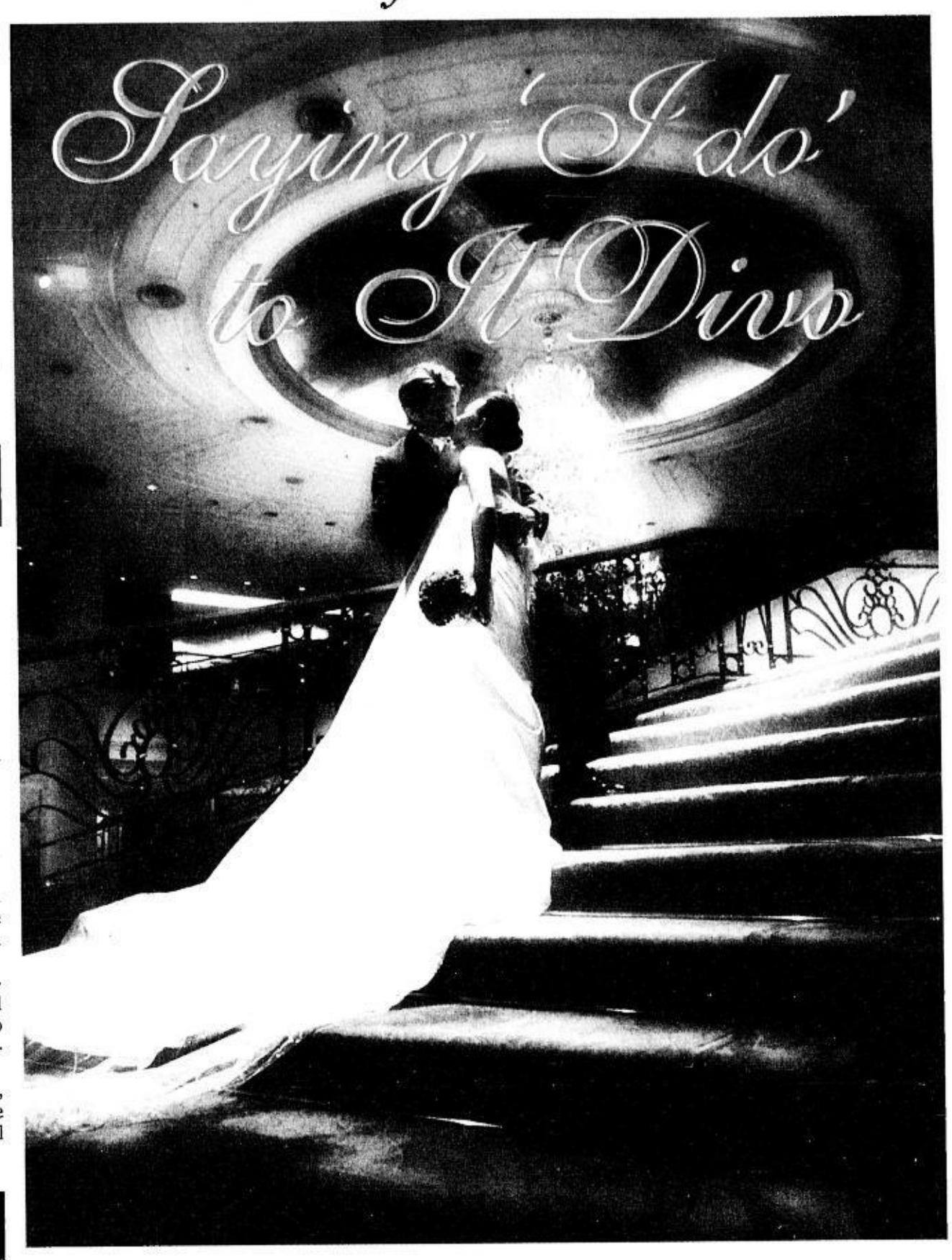
Saying 'I do' to It Divo

THE NEWLYWEDS with Patty Betita and her fiance



THE BRIDE with her proud father, Helmut Hüfner

From page E1

provided the floral arrangements at the church and reception. The main dining area of Le Soufflé was filled with mood lights, soft layers of ceiling drapes, beads hanging from the ceiling, and lots of candles, in addition to the flowers.

For the wedding cake, Peachy Huban of ShortCrust made a multi-tiered arrangement of cupcakes frosted and topped with hand-piped sugar flowers. The photography, audiovisual presentation and on-site video were done by Nice Print Photo. Charisse Tinio and her team prepared a state-of-the-art presentation. Bernie Pasamba and his string ensemble provided the music in the church and reception.

The wedding had an understated elegance, thanks to Randy Ortiz who designed the wedding ensemble. Hair and makeup were by chief stylist Joeff Moran of Emphasis and a team of stylists from Tinette & Co.

Sisters Maita and Marivi Vergel de Dios, daughters of Josie Vergel de Dios, were the wedding planners, giving every little detail their personal attention.

THE BRIDE'S mom, Elisa Hüfner

BLUSHING bride

WITH MEMBERS of the entourage

THE GROOM, Brian Quinn

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

ESTRELLA-LOPEZ

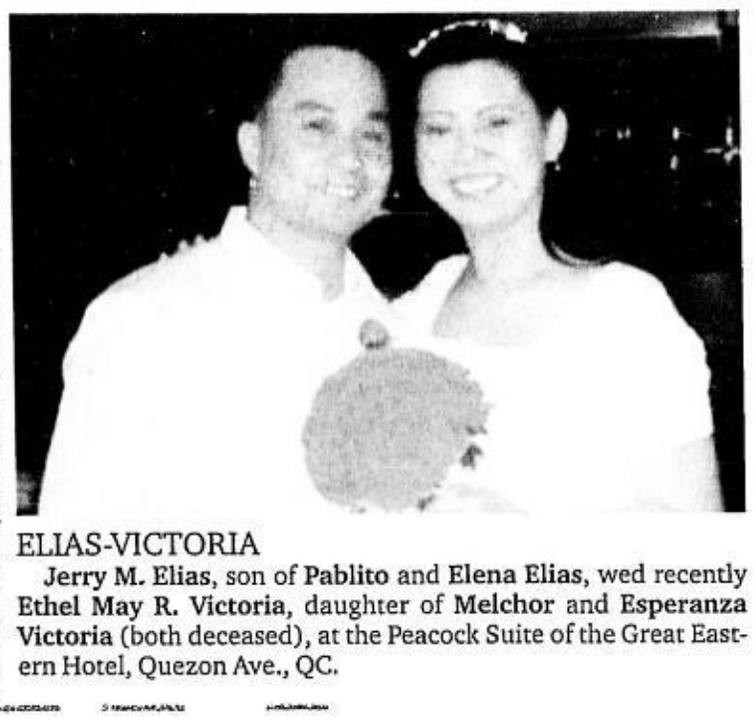
Victor Lim Estrella, son of **Felino** and **Teresita Estrella**, wed recently **Mary Annette de Guzman Lopez**, daughter of **Francisco** and **Zelma Lopez**, at the Coral Ballroom of the Manila Pavilion Hotel. The bride wore a gown by **Allan Uy** of Sari-Sari Store. Her reception gown was designed by **Bang Pineda**.

COLLADO-NICDAO

Brian Collado, son of **Mr.** and **Ms. Edgar Collado**, wed recently **Ruby Anna Nicdao**, daughter of **Mr.** and **Ms. Alfredo Nicdao**.

ASUNCION-MALINAO

Rogel Asuncion, son of **Hilarion** and **Herminia Asuncion**, will wed **Dayglend Malinao**, daughter of **Cerilo** and **Rosalina Malinao**, on Nov. 10 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception will be held at The Stargazer, The Grand Boulevard Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.



ELIAS-VICTORIA

Jerry M. Elias, son of **Pablito** and **Elena Elias**, wed recently **Ethel May R. Victoria**, daughter of **Melchor** and **Esperanza Victoria** (both deceased), at the Peacock Suite of the Great Eastern Hotel, Quezon Ave., QC.

VELASQUEZ DEBUT

Rucelyn Velasquez, daughter of **Rudy** and **Celia Velasquez**, celebrated her 18th birthday with a cotillion party at the family residence on Blue Avenue, Camella Homes, Molino, Cavite.

MAGSINO 50th ANNIVERSARY

Justice Celso and **Letty Magsino** celebrated recently their golden wedding anniversary at Mt. Carmel Monastery Lipa City. **Archbishop Ramon Arguelles** celebrated Mass with **Rev. Fr. Cecilio**. Dinner followed at the Mt. Malarayat Country Club Ballroom.

12th Festival of Trees gala to benefit typhoon-ravaged Albay

THE PHILIPPINE BUSINESS FOR SOCIAL Progress (PBSP) and the Makati Garden Club (MGC) spread early Christmas goodwill and cheer through the 12th Festival of Trees gala to be held Nov. 29, 6 p.m., at Manila Polo Club. Heading this year's charity auction-dinner are businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan and MGC president Maria Luisa Perez-Rubio, chair and vice chairperson, respectively.

This year's theme is "Celebrating the Spirit of Giving at Christmas." Guests will be bidding on mystery treasures placed inside colorful boxes.

Proceeds will go to the Amore Community Development Program, a disaster rehabilitation initiative of the PLDT-SMART Foundation in Albay, Bicol Region, to help facilitate the creation of housing and sustainable livelihood opportunities, provide basic social services, and promote ecological preservation and regeneration in certain areas of the province affected by typhoon "Reming" last year.

Call 5777741-48; fax 5273743 or visit www.pbsp.org.ph.

Filipino is 8th adopted child . . .

From page E4

priest, will lead parishioners in honoring the saint. At a side altar is St. Peregrine, patron saint of cancer patients.

Anniversary

The Society of the Little Way in Sta. Teresita del Sto. Niño de Jesus Parish on Mayon Street celebrated recently the 10th anniversary of the decree proclaiming St. Therese of the Child Jesus as Doctor of the Church.

The society, a devotional group, aims to promote the life, teachings and spirituality of St. Therese. To join, text Tess Salud at 0917-8911023.

Mass

Msgr. Josefino Ramirez, new rector of the Archdiocesan Shrine of Divine Mercy in Mandaluyong, will officiate at the concelebrated Mass for holy souls Nov. 2, 10 a.m. Novena is at 9:45 a.m.

'Power to Unite'

Most Rev. Diosdado A. Talamayan, archbishop of Tuguegarao, who celebrated his birthday Oct. 19, will be the special guest in the ninth episode of the TV show "Power to Unite with Elvira," Oct. 30, 7-7:30 p.m., NBN 4.

The show is hosted by Elvira Yap-Go who also spearheads the National Family Catholic Bible Quiz. Regional winners of the quiz are also featured on "Power to Unite."

Dadap's choir

Religious hymns are an important part of the repertoire of the formidable Andres Bonifacio Concert Choir (ABCC) led by renowned but underrated composer Jerry A. Dadap (best known for his monumental music drama "Andres Bonifacio: Ang Dakilang Anak Pawis").

The repertoire includes Dadap's powerful "Ama Namin," his even more demanding "Aleluia," and two lovely Marian songs by Jesuit Fathers Manoling Francisco and Eddie Hontiveros: "Aba Ginoong Maria" and "Maria Inang Bayan."

The around 30 choir members are mostly young and musically gifted. They sang at the "Ave Maria" concert in Quirino Grandstand during Earth Day recently and in an event sponsored by the University of Baguio at Baguio Country Club.

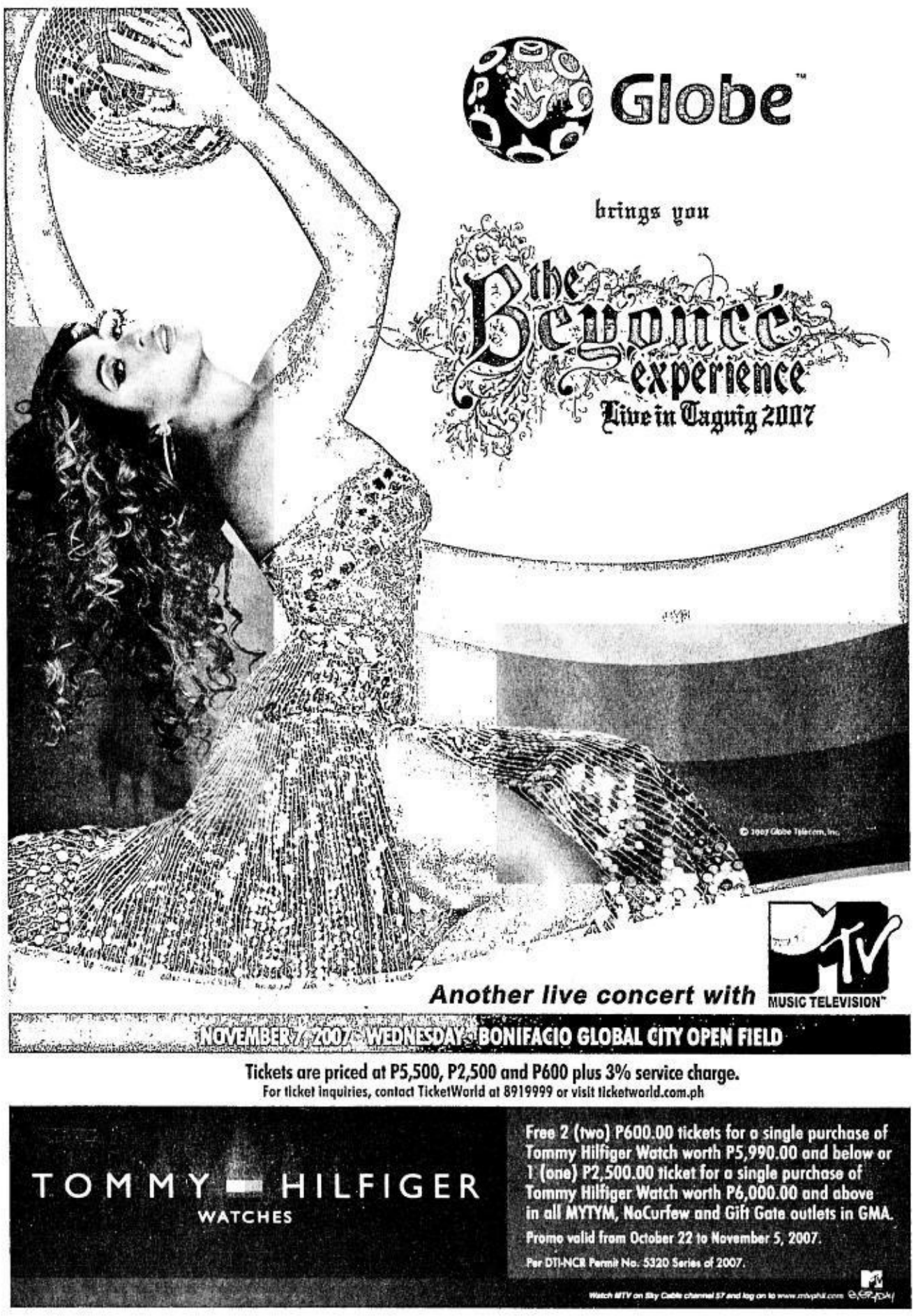
Other concerts will be held Nov. 30, Bonifacio Day, at Philamlife Theater; sometime in November, University of the Philippines Diliman; possibly December in Candon, Ilocos Sur, and in Davao City, a concert sponsored by the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and other organizations.

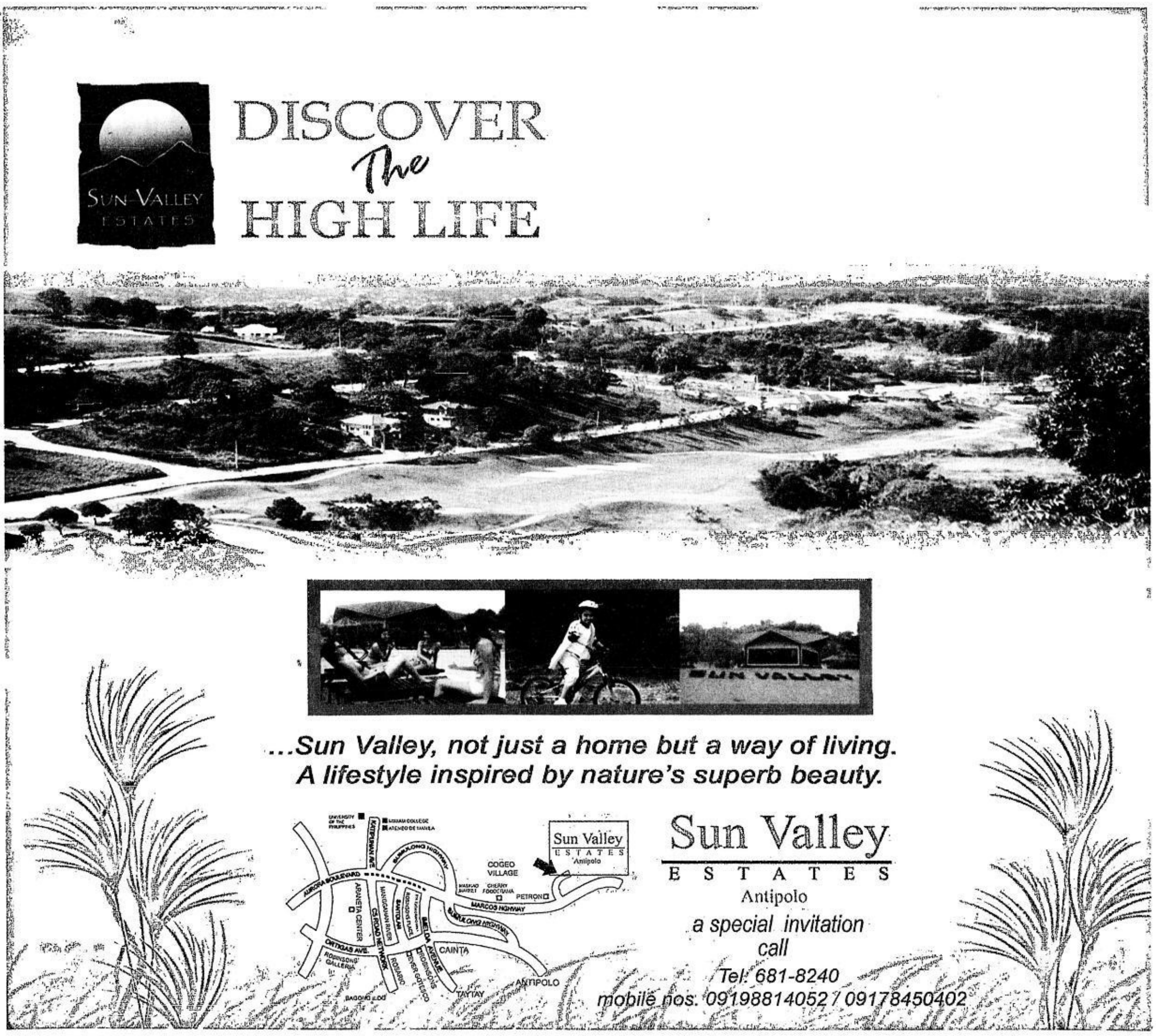
A choir member (tenor 2) is good friend Amadís Ma. Guerrero, who writes cultural and travel features for the INQUIRER.

Pray for the dead

Our hearts are breaking for the families of those who died from the explosion at Glorietta 2. Let us pray for the souls of the victims and offer Masses for them.

Congratulations to the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus on its 28th anniversary today!





PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

Filipino is 8th adopted child of American couple

THREE-YEAR-OLD Alisha is afflicted with cerebral palsy.

NANCY and Jeffrey Bykerk (back row, right) with Brock holding Katherine, Mandy and Seth; (second row) Kinsey, Grandma Peg, Lilia, Ren, Marlon, Jocelyn and Carly; (seated) Emma and Gabriela

AMERICAN COUPLE JEFFREY AND Nancy Bykerk from Caledonia, Michigan, have adopted their eighth child, this time a Filipino, 3-year-old Alisha from White Cross Orphanage. Alisha has cerebral palsy but it did not stop the couple from adopting her.

Jeffrey, a landscape maintenance man, and Nancy, a full-time housewife, have four biological children: Seth, 24; Brock, 20; Carly, 18; and Kinsey, 15. Their other adopted children, whom they met through Bethany Christian Services, are Emma, 12, and Lilia, 8, both from China; and Jocelyn, 11, and Marlon, 12, Ren, 8, Gabriela (with cerebral palsy), 5, and Katherine, 3, all from Guatemala.

When I met the couple before they returned home, little Alisha was with them. She is a tiny, pretty child, already wearing eyeglasses.

The couple said they got to know about the children they adopted from the Public Broadcast Services of the British Broadcasting Company. They saw Emma on television and the other children in a Chinese orphanage.

When Lina Araneta Santiago told me about them, I was amazed there were couples like the Bykerks willing to adopt so many poor children.

White Cross, now the White Cross Children's Center, was founded by Lina's mother, Victoria Lopez Araneta, before the war.

To continue her mother's work, sales of Lina's coffee-table book "Araneta: A Love Affair with God and Country" will go to the support of White Cross.

At the recent book launch at White Cross, children in costumes rendered song-and-dance numbers. Descendants of the Araneta, Lopez and Zaragoza clans attended.

It was a happy and loving affair, the cousins reminiscing about old times. Gregorio Araneta from Iloilo had 14 children.

Lina wrote what she remembered of her grandfather and what he did for the country.

Tony Rufino is president and Connie Lopez vice president of the center. It now has 119 resident children 0-6 years old. Another 265 children were left in the daycare center while their mothers worked.

To contribute to the cause, you can buy the book at White Cross on Pinaglabanan, San Juan; La Solidaridad, Padre Faura St., Manila; or A Different Bookstore. Price is P1,500.

St. Jude

The Catholic Church marks the feast day of St. Jude the Apostle today. In Trece Martires, Cavite, Fr. Marino Limbag, parish

FILIPINO IS 8TH/ E3

Pre-Christmas Sale
From Nov. 1-15, 2007
up to 50% off on selected items
no minimum purchase required
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Sterling Silver. Exquisite. Timeless.
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Sunday LIFESTYLE at HOME

GREEN Frankenstein was a gift and Martirez's first Halloween piece.

Whimsical Halloween home

EVEN throw pillows carry the Halloween motif.

In the home of Marilu Martirez, 'the nightmare before Christmas' runs a whole month, thanks to her collection of ghosts, witches and monsters

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Edwin Bacasmas

HALLOWEEN IS NOT just one evening for Marilu Martirez.

After a decade of collecting a treasure trove of traditional Halloween symbols and decorative pieces, the mother of four knows allowing people to view her handiwork only for one day each year is not worth getting started in the first place.

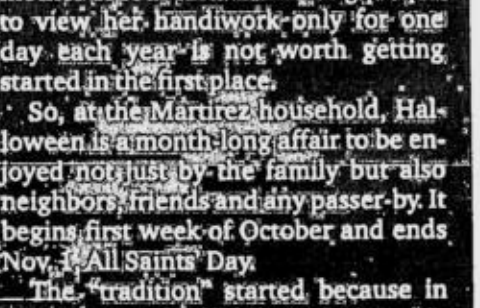
So, at the Martirez household, Halloween is a month-long affair to be enjoyed not just by the family but also neighbors, friends and any passer-by. It begins first week of October and ends Nov. 1, All Saints' Day.

The "tradition" started because in their community Halloween is a big holiday. Neighbors' children go trick-or-treating. Kids who live outside the village have also gotten into the act, knowing that on this one evening there are goodies to be had.

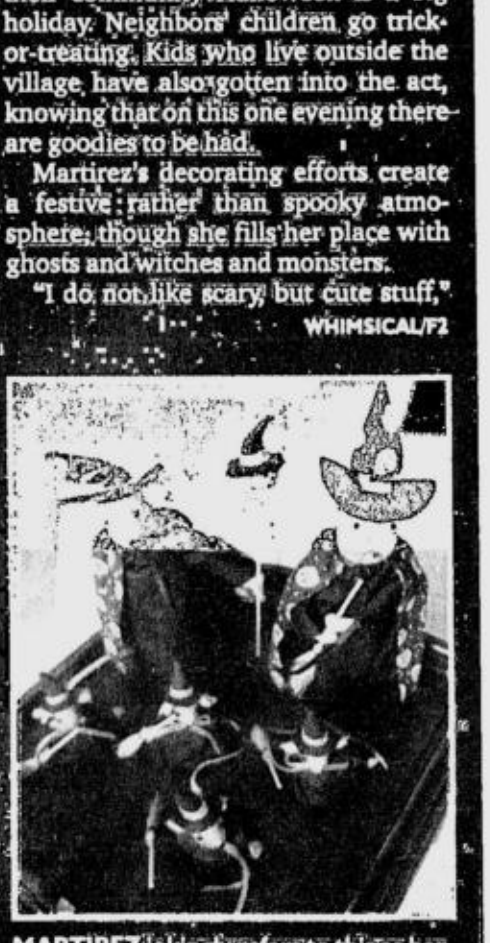
Martirez's decorating efforts create a festive rather than spooky atmosphere, though she fills her place with ghosts and witches and monsters.

"I do not like scary, but cute stuff,"

WHIMSICAL/F2



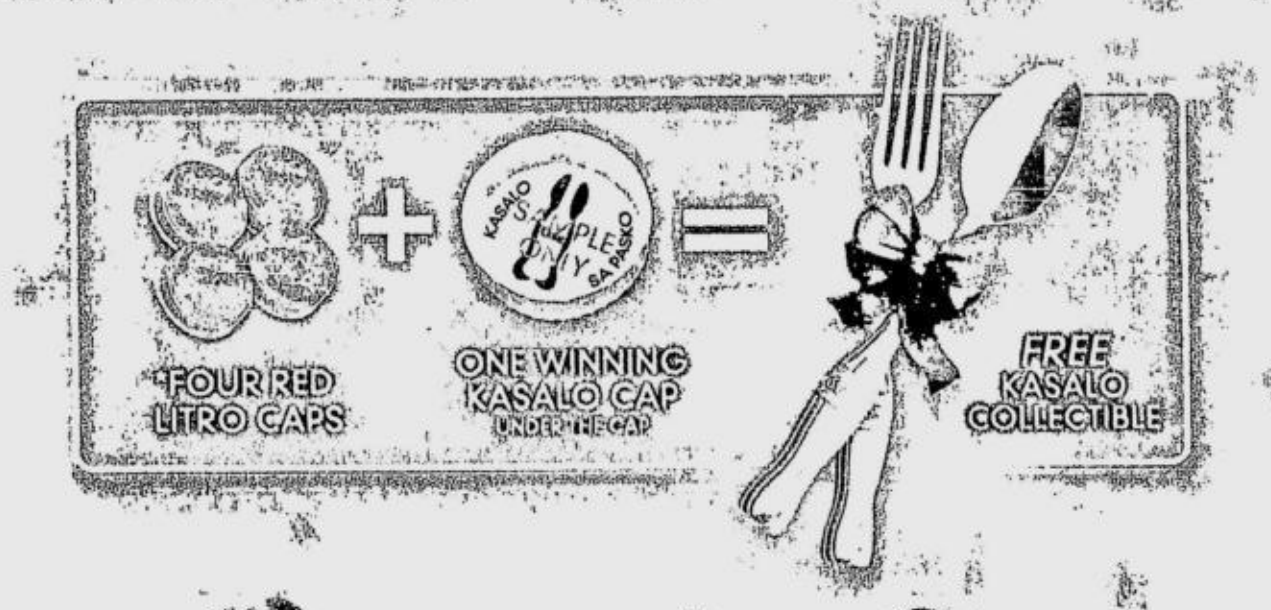
MARTIREZ jokingly refers to this as her family—parent rats and four kids.



WITH a bright bow and cheerful face, this ghost rightfully welcomes guests.

Coca-Cola Kasalo sa Pasko

Buy Coke® Litro* and get a Kasalo Collectible



Claim at Coca-Cola redemption centers
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Metro Manila: 813-2653 (COKE)
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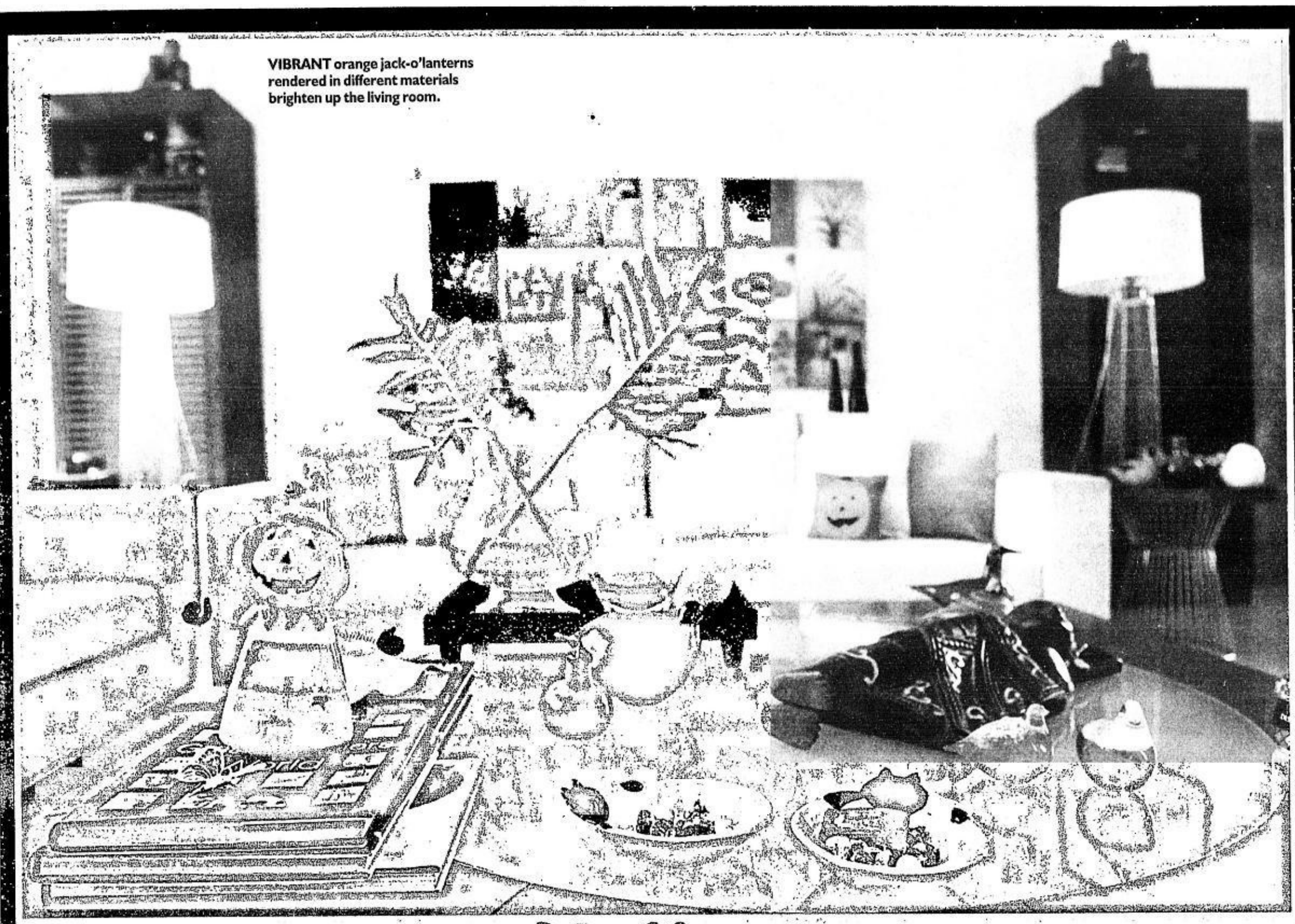
How to claim:
- To get the Kasalo Collectible set, you must collect four (4) red promo caps of participating Coke, Sprite or RTO 1 Liter packs and one (1) winning Kasalo Cap (under the cap) of Coke, Sprite or RTO 1 Liter.
- Redeem Kasalo Collectible sets at participating Sari-Sari Stores & Market Stall redemption centers.
- Redemption period is until February 21, 2008 only. Kasalo Collectible sets are not redeemable for cash.
- A verification process will be conducted upon redemption to determine authenticity of the specially marked Christmas Kasalo cap. Fraudulent caps are invalid.
- Decisions of Coca-Cola on verification matters are final.
- Employees of TCCEC, CCBP, MEP including their parent companies, affiliates, third party suppliers, BFAD and their relatives up to the 2nd level of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
- Consumers may redeem more than once.
- Promo Period: October 21 – December 21, 2007.



VIBRANT orange jack-o'lanterns rendered in different materials brighten up the living room.

Whimsical Halloween home

From page F1

she explains why her Halloween figures have pleasant demeanors.

Her ghosts—in ceramics, inflatable plastic and rubber—look like different renderings of Casper, the friendly spirit in the popular cartoon show.

The two inflatable Frankensteins—the larger one standing at the bottom of the short stairway leading to the front door, the smaller one in a hallway—sport wide grins and are more reminiscent of the bumbling monster from the movie "Young Frankenstein" rather than the original Mary Shelley creature.

Even the plastic skeleton leaning against an outside wall and facing the pool looks decidedly laid back.

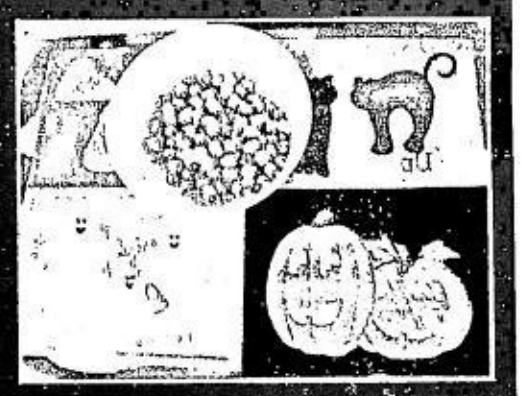
And Martirez does not do things in half-measure. Halloween at her home is not just a few witches here and there but orange pumpkins of all sizes, candleholders, placemats, table napkins, butter knives, bowls and plates.

Even the bathroom has Halloween-themed soap dishes and hand towels.

Martirez, who says the only other time she decorates the house is on Christmas, laughs at her almost single-minded pursuit of the Halloween theme, prompting one of her daughters to ask, "Can you de-pumpkinize the house?"

She did curb her enthusiasm this year. With her two youngest children—a daughter and her only son—studying abroad to keep their father company in his foreign job, Martirez said she stopped buying Halloween things.

But no matter. She has collected enough the past 10 years that she can probably decorate not just her house but her neighbor's as well.

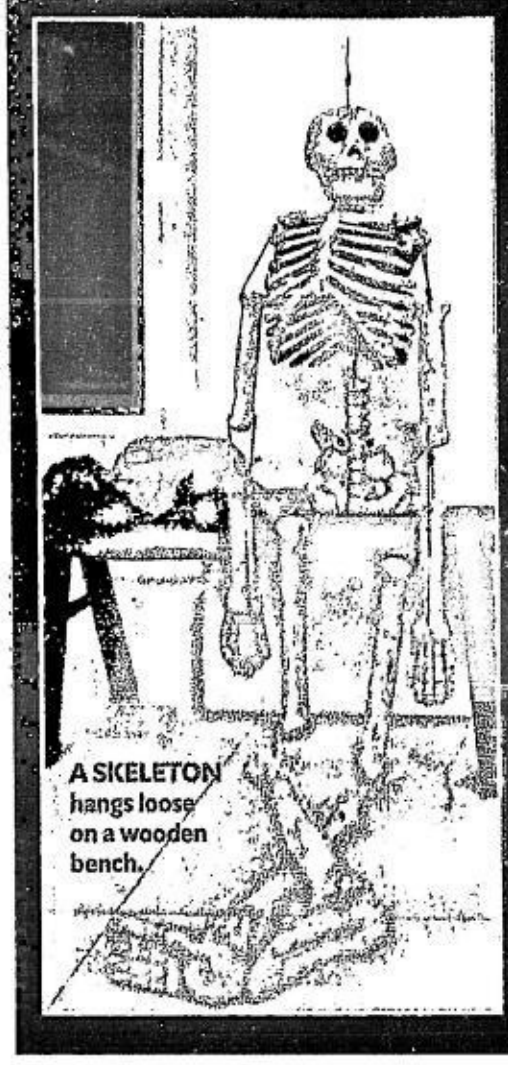


THE DINING table features placemats, bowls and butter knives with black cats, ghosts and jack-o'lanterns, while table napkins have black cats.

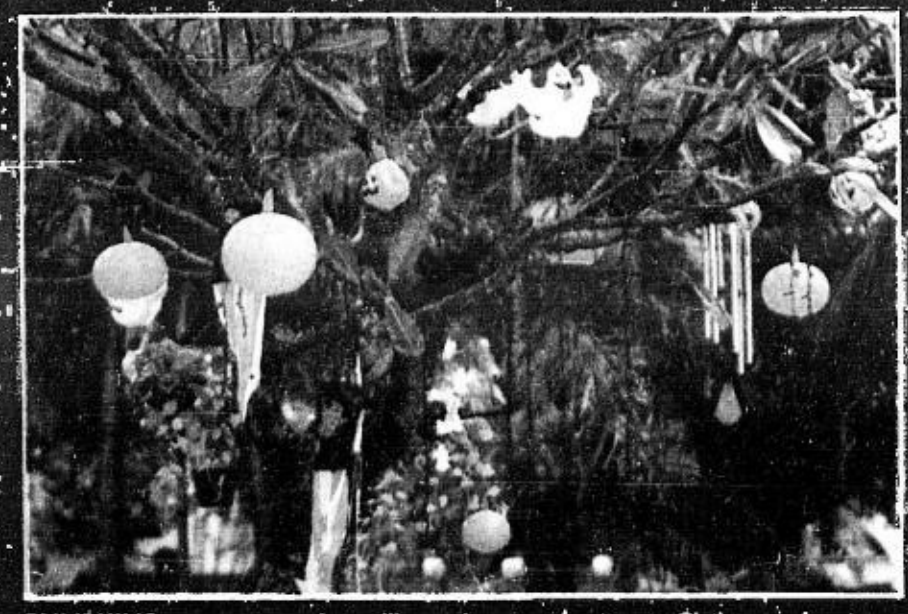
WHO'S afraid of a smiling ghost even if it says "Boo"? In the evening the door is lit by a string of pumpkin-shape lights.

LOOKING more like happy scarecrows are these witches.

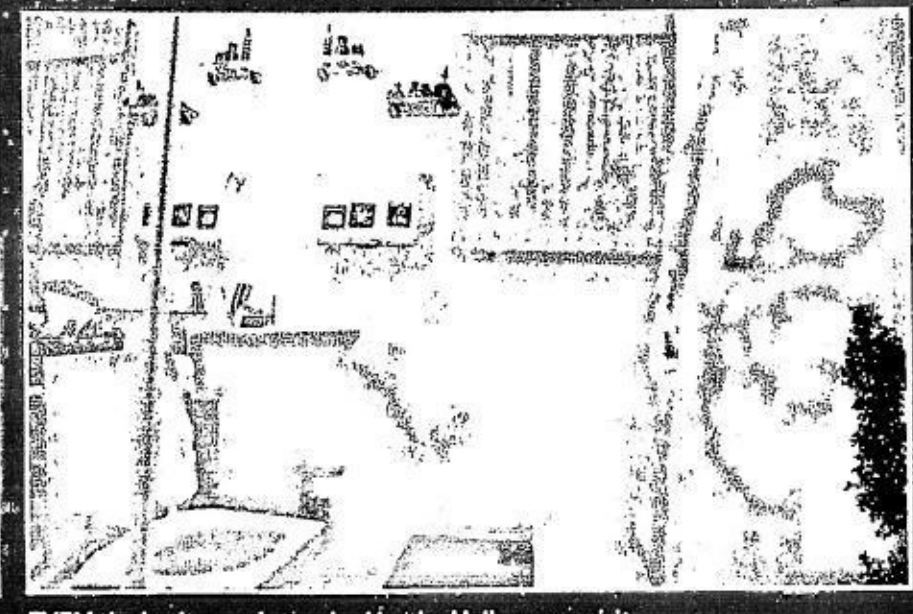
THE GHOSTS at the Martirez home are all smiling like Casper.



A SKELETON hangs loose on a wooden bench.



PUMPKINS grow on trees but will soon have to give way to Christmas decor.



EVEN the bathroom is touched by the Halloween spirit.

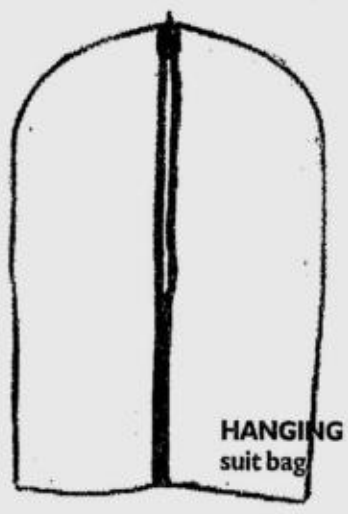
Closet configurations

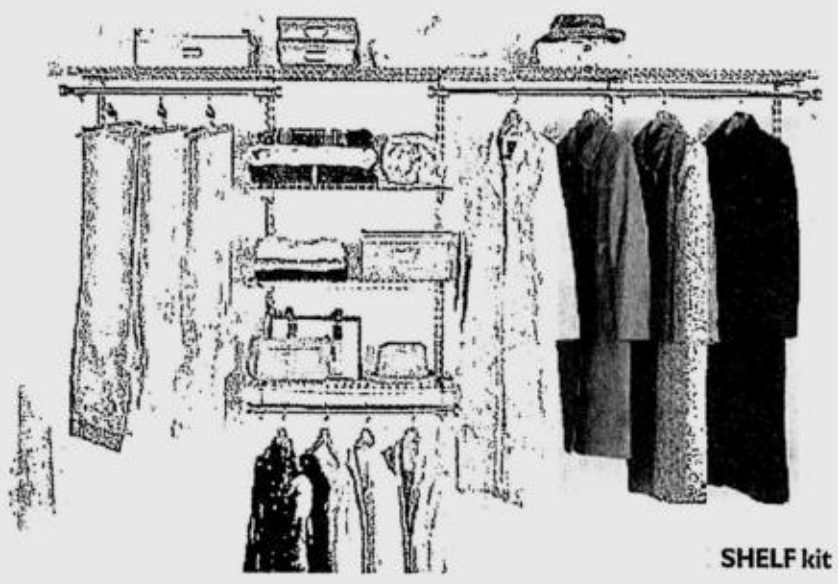
By Kathleen Ong
Contributor

ATTENTION, DO-IT-YOURSELFERS! Are you unhappy with the current state of your closet? Tired of waiting to get a decent carpenter reference? Do you refuse to spend truckloads of cash on a closet makeover?

Introducing Rubbermaid's Configurations Custom Closet Organizers. This product is perfect for those who want to get things done fast, minus the fuss.

The Rubbermaid Closet Kits are


HANGING suit bag


SHELF kit

easy to install, extremely flexible, durable and affordable! The beauty of this configuration is the adjustability of the products which accommodates any desired length. How? The hanging rods, shelves—down to the rails that support the shelves and brackets expand! Just stretch away or "shrink" for a custom fit. No cutting, sawing or trimming necessary! Genius!

Configurations Closet Kit

Choose from four closet kit varieties containing different combinations that you can customize to your needs. Per kit (fits closets 4-8 feet) enables you to create six possible configurations!

Each closet kit includes:

- Hang rails (holds uprights)
- Uprights (holds brackets)
- Brackets (holds shelves)
- Rod hangers (holds rod)

- Hanging rods with end caps (to keep hangers in place)
- Hardware needed for installing kit
- Pre-measured spacers for minimizing measuring tasks. (It's all laid out for you!)

Add on accessories include:

- Two Shelf Kit
- Upright extension kit
- Shoe storage shelves
- Hanging Prepack
- Tie and Belt Organizer
- Shoe Rod Organizer
- Sliding Wire Basket
- Sliding Pants Organizer

The attractive metal shelving, hang rails and brackets are epoxy coated while the hanging rods and shoe rods are chrome-plated making them rust resistant. Place shelves high up, down low or side by side. Insert one edge of two rods together to lengthen the hanging rod or separate to get two rods. Easily and quickly reconfigure—just take out the contents and adjust!

Go ahead, create your own design and get creative. Use them in the laundry room, kitchen, pantry, bedroom and even in the bathroom! Why not? Each shelving can hold weight up to 50 kilos and can be mounted on both wood and cement. Customize, containerize and organize!

If you're tired of the first design you came up with or perhaps your needs have changed, you can easily move up or down a shelf, shorten or stretch a rod without having to do major construction.

Imagine, a 2-ft shelf can stretch double its size. The same goes for the 4-8 ft rods, rails and shelves. You can get it all in one closet kit! Talk about a product that's easy to install, durable in design and structure, accommodates change, add in the fact that you can take it with you when you move house—now that's a good investment.

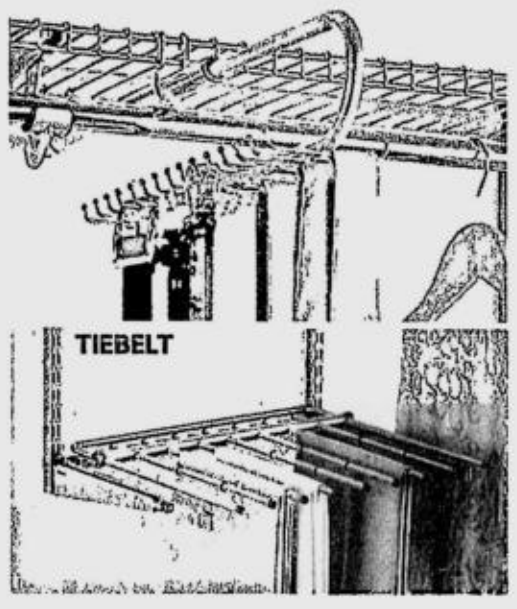
Before you race to the store, weed out your closet and take an inventory so you'll know which kit is perfect for you. And while you're at it, why not shop for some new uniform-colored hangers! This is a huge help in creating an orderly look.

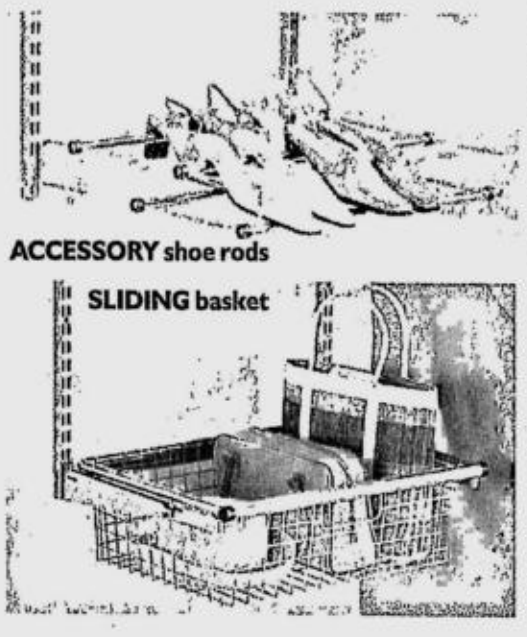
Combine organizing efforts with the right storage? *Voila*! You get a closet that works. Invest in getting the right storage for your needs.

Rubbermaid Configurations are available at all Rustan's outlets.

Call KLG Intl. Inc., Rubbermaid Home Products, tels. 8522511 to 17, fax 8513286, mobile 09175342193.

Organize your space. Organize your Life. Visit www.rippleeffectorganizing.com


TIEBELT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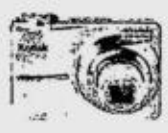
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Per DTI NCR Permit no. 36-17 Series of 2007

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

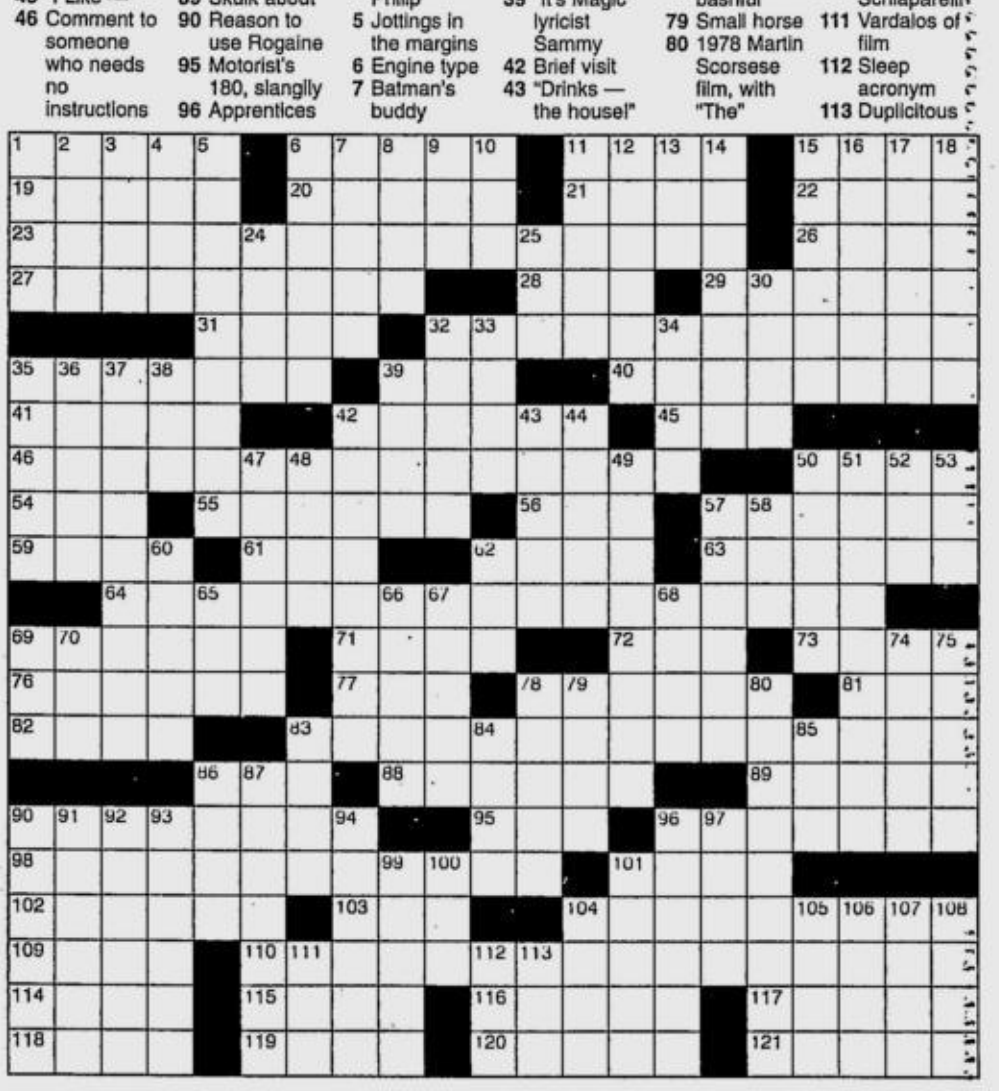
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — **TOOL TIME**

ACROSS

1 Long (for)
6 Lures
11 Very large-scale
15 Korea locale
19 "Bless you!" preceder
20 Region of ancient Greece
21 El — (Pacific current)
22 Drags
23 Joe Orton play
26 Raggedy — (classic dolls)
27 "Aha!"
28 Giant mythical bird
29 TV dog
31 Some Feds
32 Air travel purchases
35 Certain utility statement
39 Stage signal
40 Plato's teacher
41 — -Detoo of "Star Wars"
42 Deep bow of respect
45 "I Like —"
46 Comment to someone who needs no instructions
50 See 13-Down
54 Supposed psychic gift
55 Faints
56 Ethyl ender
57 Petition
59 Coral group
61 Cut off
62 Sammy with over 600 homers
63 Elbowroom
64 Use Chapter 11
69 "Stop that!"
71 "Va-va- —!"
72 To the — power
73 Ape "King"
76 Tries to cure
77 Big record co.
78 Of the backbone
81 Lobster eggs
82 Frees oneself (of)
83 Damage a certain joint
86 Bi- less one
88 Looking at lewdly
89 Skulk about
90 Reason to use Rogaine
95 Motorist's 180, slangily
96 Apprentices
98 American industrialist and art collector
101 Flaky stuff
102 Lassos
103 Egg — yung
104 Captive's angry cry
109 Venetian magistrate
110 In terms of one's private feelings
114 Netizen
115 Blaze
116 Funny bone's place
117 Forest flora
118 Seal groups
119 Unbiased
120 Fort —, Florida
121 Keebler cracker brand

DOWN

1 Swerves at sea
2 Canyon effect
3 At the drop of —
4 Novelist Philip
5 Jottings in the margins
6 Engine type
7 Batman's buddy
8 "Sometimes you feel like —"
9 Wilde forte
10 Bando of baseball
11 Company involved in a 2002 scandal
12 Zodiac sign
13 With 50-Across, very quickly
14 Persistently unruly tuft of hair
15 49th state
16 Dusk
17 Touch off
18 Valuate
24 WWW document standard
25 Victorian —
30 1/640 square mile
32 Cries in a thin voice
33 Start off
34 Work hard
35 More gleeful
36 Dawned
37 Amazed
38 — choy
39 "It's Magic" lyricist Sammy
42 Brief visit
43 "Drinks — the house!"
44 Belarus' capital
47 Hooting babies
48 Canine cry
49 Discovering
50 Particle
51 Brooklynite, e.g.
52 Drivers' gp.
53 Practice diligently, as a trade
57 First Greek letters
58 Furry family member
60 — a fiddle
62 Actor Neill
65 Illuminated
66 Juliet's love
67 Springing sound
68 — Reader (eclectic magazine)
69 Div. of a fiscal year
70 Spoon-bender Geller
74 Pitcher Ryan
75 Unhip types
78 More bashful
79 Small horse
80 1978 Martin Scorsese film, with "The"
83 Long (for)
84 Sleuth's aid
85 SSW's reverse
86 Arm bone
87 Starts dozing
90 Dirt-poor
91 Melodic composition
92 Reflected the likeness of
93 People appraising
94 Jungle trek
96 Acquired kin
97 Yule tune
99 Sulking sort
100 Curly's brother
101 Madrid Mr.
104 Court attire
105 Dried up, old-style
106 Lead-ins to holidays
107 Cross paths
108 Designer Schiaparelli
111 Vardalos of film
112 Sleep acronym
113 Duplicitous



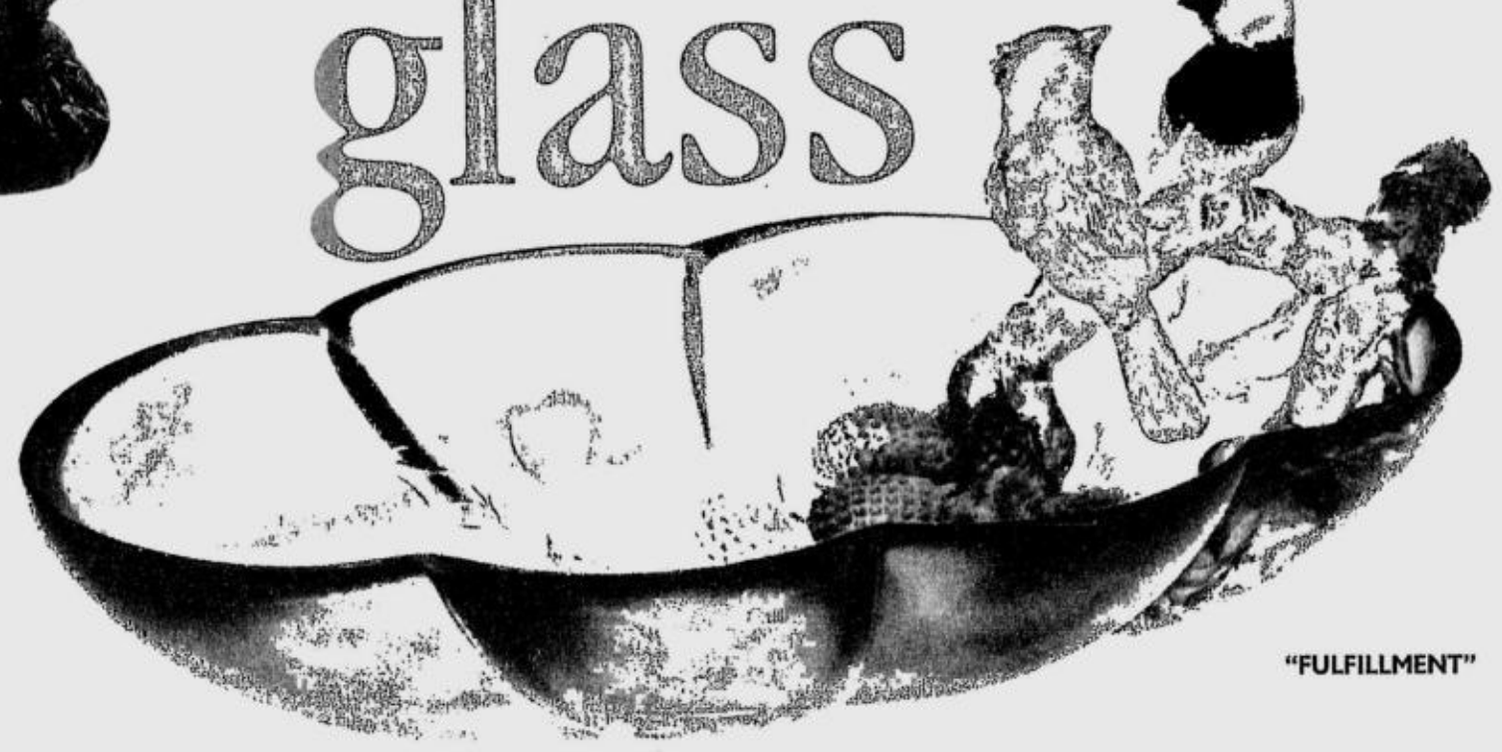
answer on page F4

"A HERO'S True Colors"

"CONCENTRIC Love"

Once thought lost, the beauty, colors and symbolisms that come with each Tittot piece are definitely here to stay

Splendor in the glass



"FULFILLMENT"

By Alex Y. Vergara

BY DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM traditional as well as contemporary images and symbols associated with the Chinese, Tittot has been producing, since 1994, intricate and colored glass pieces that have won over a growing number of collectors.

Each Tittot piece, whether it's as iconic and intricate as "Ascend to Succeed" or as modern and spare as "Concentric Love," has become more than just a home accent.

As envisioned by Tittot founder and creative director Heinrich Wang back in 1987, each piece—fashioned by seasoned Chinese craftsmen using the so-called lost-wax casting technique—becomes an artwork in itself.

It comes as no surprise then that a number of commissioned Tittot pieces have ended up in museums in Japan, Taiwan and, of course, China over the years.

Tittot's acclaim has gone beyond these countries, to include fans from almost every corner of the world, including the Philippines. The brand (a phonetic translation of the Chinese term *ti to*, which loosely means crystal) has been relaunched in Manila recently and is now exclusively available at the Rustan's Tower (Shangri-La Mall).

"Although Tittot is known to a good number of Chinese-Filipinos, we want to reestablish its presence as well as introduce it this time to the mainstream Philippine market," says Genevieve Siao, GM of Tittot Philippines.

"CONTENT with Happiness"

Since Tittot's loyal patrons can now choose from a fairly wide selection of pieces at Rustan's, they don't have to fly all the way to China or to the brand's flagship store in Taiwan to get their hands on a piece or two.

"We carry most of the popular pieces, including several statement pendants also made of colored glass," says Siao.

"FULL Throttle"

Pricey pieces

To the collector on a budget, Tittot's pieces can be quite prohibitive. Price ranges anywhere from P9,400 for a simple pendant to P147,840 for a complicated glass dragon in gradating shades of amber.

The collection also draws inspiration from a fair share of traditional Chinese symbols via such flora and fauna staples as fish, peacocks, tigers, horses, dogs, bamboo shoots, peonies, plums and chrysanthemums. "Seasoned Harvest," "Commitment" "Full Throttle" and "Romance" are prime examples belonging to this group.

A portion is likewise devoted to several stylized figures entwined in various poses supposedly depicting certain human emotions. "Magnanimity" and "Tenuous Love" come to mind.

These pieces, which are numbered and controlled, are bound to appreciate in value, Siao adds. For one, the US-educated Wang, a celebrated glass artist and Renaissance man (he also acts, directs, paints and writes poetry) from China, designed them.

To provide guests some historical as well as interior-design perspectives during the launch, Siao sought the expertise of leading interior designer and educator Jie Pambid, who grouped the pieces based primarily on messages they wished to convey.

"Not only is the process involved in making them different, each piece also has a certain meaning," says Pambid. "These two qualities set Tittot apart from other equally famous collectors' items."

Their meanings run the gamut of anything and everything positive in Chinese culture such as wealth, success, achievement, love, sharing, happiness, contentment and peace of mind.

"Tittot's glass pieces are, in a way, different from European-made crystal pieces, which usually hold no special meanings other than the beauty they provide," says Pambid.

Painstaking process

And unlike in the case of European crystal pieces, no direct sculpting is involved since Tittot's craftsmen form each piece made of colored glass (in its liquid, prefired state) through a painstaking process involving a wax mold.

Once it's preformed, the piece is then removed from its wax mold and fired at temperatures of up to 800°C. But doing so, says Pambid, means you have to totally destroy the wax mold.

Whatever color it's in during its preformed state, the piece will further derive its sheen and translucent quality from the firing process. Apart from hardening it, the heat also imparts it with a vivid color.

"Heat also lends each piece with unique gradating qualities," said Pambid. "There's no way of predicting how these gradations would turn out. In effect, no matter how many pieces you do of a particular shape or design, no two pieces will ever be alike."

The lost-wax technique derives its name either from the fact that each mold is eventually destroyed during the production process, or that the craft itself reportedly disappeared in China for 100 years until Wang helped rescue it from obscurity.

Once thought lost, the beauty, colors and symbolisms that come with each Tittot piece are definitely here to stay.

"RINGS of Fulfillment"

TOY KINGDOM has amazing cauldrons of treats for kids this Halloween. A magical cauldron casts spell-tacular costumes and trick-or-treat stuff, while a creepy cauldron offers the spook-tacular and the eerie. Available are huggable Halloween stuffed toys, flowers in bloom, charming bags and hats for trick or treating. Toy Kingdom Express is at all SM Department Stores. Toy Kingdom stores are at SM Makati, The Podium, V-Mall, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, The Block at SM City North Edsa, SM City Fairview and SM Mall of Asia.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

Y	E	A	R	N		D	R	A	W	S		E	P	I
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A	R	T	O	O			S	A	L	A	A	M		I
Y	O	U	K	N	O	W	T	H	E	D	R	I	L	L
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R	E	E	F		L	O	P			S	O	S	A	
		F	I	L	E	F	O	R	B	A	N	K	R	U
Q	U	I	T	I	T		V	O	O	M			N	T
T	R	E	A	T	S		E	M	I		S	P	I	N
R	I	D	S			W	R	E	N	C	H	O	N	E
			U	N	I		O	G	L	I	N	G		
H	A	I	R	L	O	S	S		U	E	Y		I	N
A	R	M	A	N	D	H	A	M	M	E	R		S	N
R	I	A	T	A	S		F	O	O			R	E	L
D	O	G	E		O	N	A	P	E	R	S	O	N	A
U	S	E	R		F	I	R	E		E	L	B	O	W
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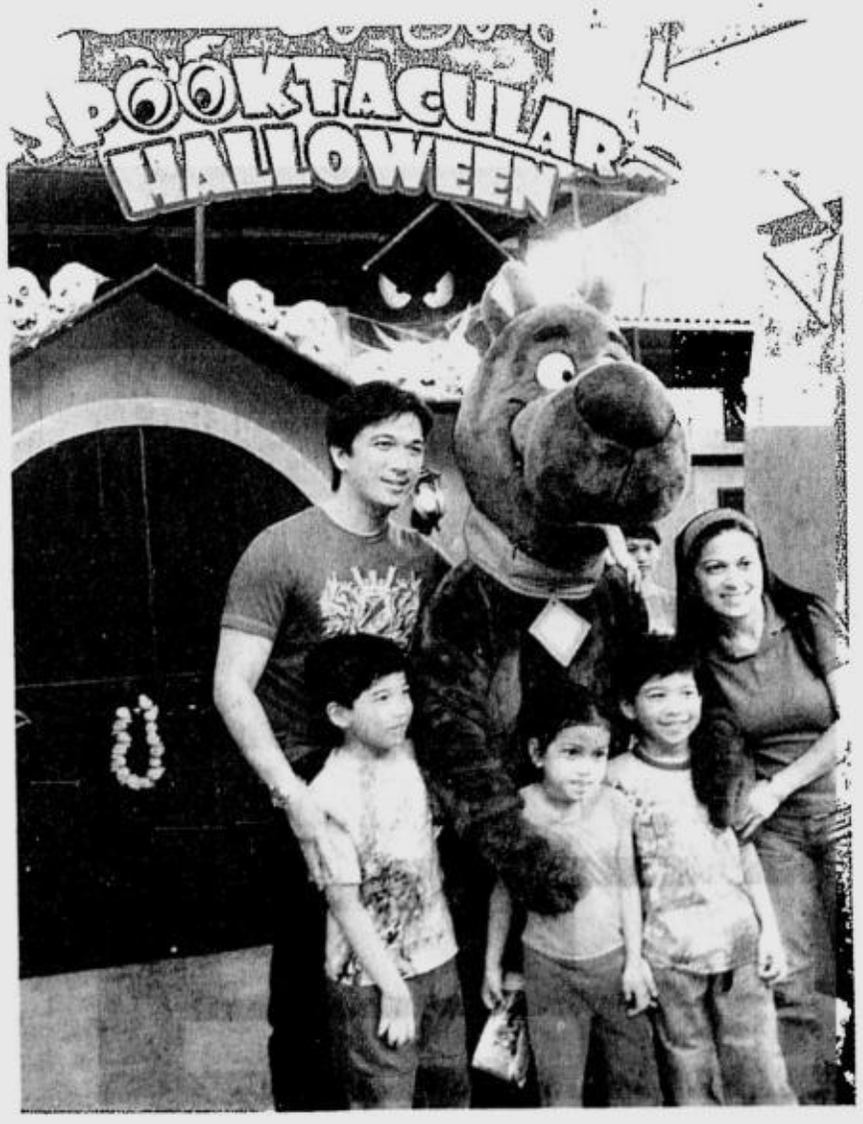
Spooktacular Halloween with canine sleuth



SCOOBY DOO, THE COMICALLY ENTERtaining Great Dane and mystery solver, invites you to a Spooktacular Halloween!

Take the whole family until Nov. 3 to The Block, SM North Edsa, and enjoy a fun-filled weekend with Scooby Doo!

Every P300 purchase of Warner Bros. products at Toy Kingdom entitles a customer to a Scooby Doo mask and entry to his Haunted House of Fun for free.

Inside, he can take part in finding ghosts, saving Scooby's friends from mummies and helping Scooby Doo find his way out.

Meet Scooby Doo as he makes live appearances Oct. 28 at 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.; and Oct. 31 at 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Cartoon Network takes part in this event on Oct. 28 when it launches "Sigaw Scooby," a contest for kids who scream the loudest.

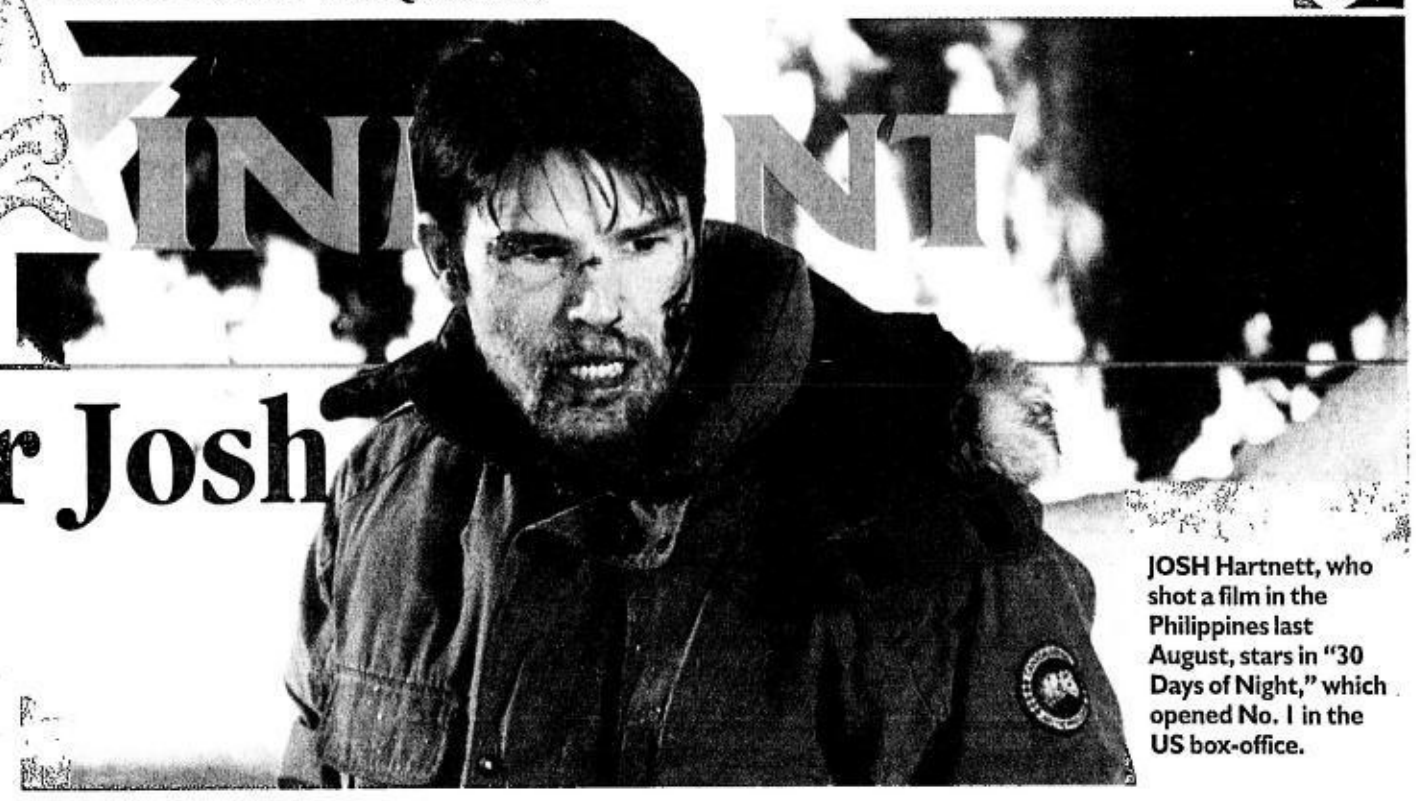
On Oct. 31, children can don costumes and participate in the Trick or Treat parade.

Kids can also have photo opportunities with Scooby Doo and his human friends in Mystery Inc., Shaggy, Velma, Fred and Daphne.

This promo is only available in Toy Kingdom outlets in Metro Manila. Warner Bros. products include Looney Tunes, Batman, Superman and Justice League.

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Emmie G. Velarde
sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Vampire film for Josh

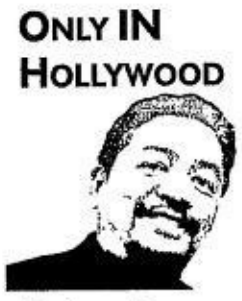


JOSH Hartnett, who shot a film in the Philippines last August, stars in "30 Days of Night," which opened No. 1 in the US box-office.

LOS ANGELES—WE CAN'T WAIT TO see how **Josh Hartnett**'s "I Come with the Rain," which he filmed in part in Mt. Diwalwal, Davao, turns out.

Last August, Josh and the rest of the cast and crew of the thriller stirred the gold mining area of Mt. Diwalwal when they arrived to film there. Josh charmed the residents with his good Midwestern manners. In turn, the folks loved him. "People have been very generous, happy and kind," Josh was quoted by PDI Mindanao Bureau correspondent **Dennis Jay Santos** as saying. The actor reportedly also said that Mt. Diwalwal is "such a gorgeous part of the world."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

"I Come..." is slated to be released next year. In the meantime, Josh can be seen in "30 Days of Night," a vampire action film which topped the US weekend charts when it recently opened. The title comes from the movie's setting in Alaska where there's a long stretch of period of no sunlight.

Josh's eclectic range of movies, from the boxing drama ("Resurrecting the Champ"), a drama-mystery set in Asia ("I Come...") to this horror movie, is intentional on the actor's part.

In an interview before the actor flew to Hong Kong and Manila last July, he said, "I like to switch things and do something that's different from what I've done because it gets boring to do the same thing all the time. Doing '30 Days of Night' was a complete departure from being on the set of 'Resurrecting the Champ.' '30 Days' is a vampire film but the script was something interesting. I've always been a fan of vampire films but I've never seen the genre treated this way. The director, **David Slade**, is a visual master. He made something that's out there."

Asked about his role in "30 Days...," the actor who reportedly loved to eat the señorita variety of bananas in Davao, answered, "I play a sheriff in Barrow, Alaska, the northernmost city in North America. **Danny Huston** plays the head bad guy. I play the good guy, but the character is complex. He's not all sunshine. I always look for characters with realistic flaws and stories that have realistic ways of overcoming these flaws. I don't believe in that cathartic moment where your life changes completely and so suddenly. If anything, it takes you a while to recognize that was the moment that changed your life."

...and more quotable quotes from Francis Ford Coppola

Moving lines

We continue our write-up on director **Francis Ford Coppola**, whose film, "Youth Without Youth," is his first in 10 years. Based on a novel by Romanian writer and philosopher, **Mircea Eliade**, the movie tackles the myth of eternal youth.

The filmmaker, who shot the landmark Vietnam War film, "Apocalypse Now" in the Philippines in the mid-'70s, talked about his friends **George Lucas** and **Steven Spielberg**, his wife **Eleanor** and children, filmmakers **Sofia** and **Roman**, an ambitious movie project ("Megalopolis") that will probably not get made, his booming winery business and the recent break-in at his Argentina office where thieves wounded a photographer in his staff and made off with camera equipment and computers, including one which stored the script he has been writing for his next film.

Here are some quotable quotes:

What's it like when you, Steven Spielberg and George Lucas get together?

I could joke about it and say, "George, here, have some nice wine." He would say, "Could I have a Coca Cola instead (laughter)?" In truth, we have had dinners together. It's like three kids with the enthusiasm of how wonderful and magical cinema is, how you can never learn enough and how every time you make a film, you learn more.

Both of these gentlemen are really sweet, very generous and kind people. They are good friends. I am struck with the childlike enthusiasm that we all have when we discuss the possibilities—what can be done with film. I do love George. I say, "George, after the third 'Star Wars,' you said you were go-

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1 STARDUST • THX
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

2 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 MANILA PRIDE FEST
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

4 LUST CAUTION
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

5 Reserved for Victory Christian Fellowship

6 Reserved for Victory Christian Fellowship

7 UNREST
12:40 3:005:20 7:40 10:00

8 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

9 RENDITION
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

10 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 RENDITION
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 UNREST
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

6 LUST CAUTION
10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

7 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

METRO EAST Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 KNOCKED UP
1:00 3:35 6:15 9:00

2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 UNREST
12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:10

5 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 LUST CAUTION
11:40 2:40 5:40 9:00

7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

8 RENDITION
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

NOVALICHES Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 KNOCKED UP
3 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PIONEER Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

1 RENDITION
12:50 3:20 5:50 8:20

2 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

3 LUST CAUTION
11:10 2:20 5:30 8:40

4 UNREST
12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40

STA. ROSA Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
5 RESERVED

LIPA Ticket Price: P90 (043) 757-3684 (043) 312-5870

1 RESIDENT EVUL 3
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 DECEMBER BOYS
4 KNOCKED UP

DASMARIÑAS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 SHOOT 'EM UP
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

IMUS Ticket Price: P100 (046) 471-8188

1 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
3 APAT APAT DAPAT APAT
4 HIGHLANDER

ANGELES Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RETRIBUTION
4 STARDUST

TARLAC

1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
2 THREE
3 KNOCKED UP

STARMILLS Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

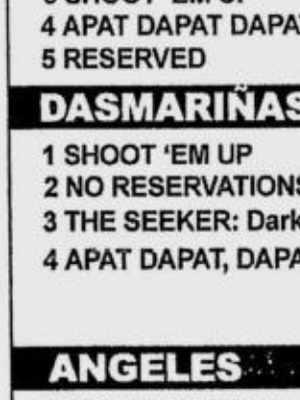
1 WEDDING DAZE
2 STARDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
5 RETRIBUTION
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3

BACOLOD Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 indieSine: STILL LIFE
4 STARDUST
5 KNOCKED UP
6 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

ILOILO Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 RETRIBUTION
3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
4 KNOCKED UP
5 DECEMBER BOYS
6 NO RESERVATIONS



a film by Katski Flores

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OCTOBER 24 to 30

Cinemalaya

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 CINE EUROPA

2 RENDITION
MTRCB: R-13
12:45, 3:40, 6:35, 9:30

3 LUST CAUTION
MTRCB: R-18 12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30

4 STARDUST
MTRCB: GP 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

PREMIERE THEATRE
THE SEEKER: (GP) 12:00, 2:30 / BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL (PG-13) 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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cine europa

October 27 (Saturday)
Shooting Dogs 12:00 PM
Taming of the Shrew 2:30 PM
Carol's Journey 5:00 PM
Jalla! Jalla! 7:15 PM
Meeting the Enemy 9:15 PM

October 28 (Sunday)
Summer with the Ghost 12:00 PM
Dead Man's Hand 2:00 PM
Fanny & Alexander 4:00 PM
The Kiss 7:30 PM
Closely Watched Trains 9:40 PM

October 29 (Monday)
Jalla! Jalla! 12:00 PM
The Leopard 2:15 PM
Facing Windows 5:45 PM
Just Sex & Nothing Else 8:00 PM
Lives of Others 10:00

October 30 (Tuesday)
The Umbrellas of Cherbourg 12:00 PM
Kolya 2:00 PM
The Leap 4:20 PM
La Mome 6:20 PM
FC Venus 9:00 PM

October 31 (Wednesday)
Just Sex & Nothing Else 12:00 PM
Karakter 2:00 PM
Carol's Journey 4:45 PM
Summer in Berlin 7:00 PM
The Leopard 9:15 PM

FREE ADMISSION
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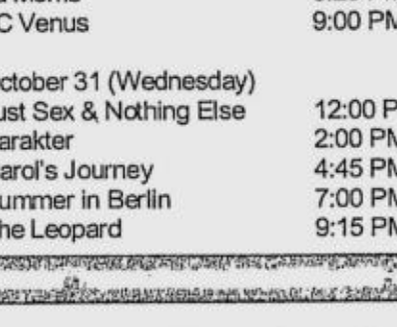

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RENDITION 12:30 / 3:30 / 6:30 / 9:30	LUST CAUTION 12:10 / 3:10 / 6:10 / 9:10	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	
MR WOODCOCK 1:50, 4:10 KNOCKED UP 6:30 / 9:20	RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 12:50 / 3:10 / 5:30 / 7:50 / 9:50	STARDUST 12:35 / 3:30 / 6:25 / 9:20	BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL 4:00 / 9:00 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 1:30 / 6:30

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THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	UNREST 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25

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OPENS OCTOBER 31 • MTRCB RATING: R-13

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Vampire film..

From page G1

ing to make an experimental film." He goes, "I will, you know." We hope he will because he's very talented. Of course, Steven just continues to spew out one beautiful work after another.

How much of a setback was the break-in in Argentina?

It was a big setback because they stole the computer with data storage as well. But we've managed to piece some things together. It turns out that there was a back-up disk of my personal stuff from a year and half ago. I'm now beginning to assemble my computer back. I've lost a year of writing and stuff. But we do have the scripts which were backed up in many places. So it's not so much as a tragedy as an outrage. It's like being raped or something. The photographer was knifed in the shoulder when the thieves broke in.

You've been married to Eleanor for over 40 years. That's a record in show business.

I'm blessed with having been married for all these years. I think our next anniversary is 45 years. I never felt in my life that I ever captured Eleanor 100 percent. I always felt throughout my life that maybe it was 83 percent. There were always parts of her that were mysteries. I never had her full attention. Maybe that's a way you stay with the same woman. If you consume them, they're not of interest to you. She was interesting, intelligent and creative enough that I never fully consumed her. I keep trying (laughter) and I probably never will.

Can you talk about your children Sofia and Roman who have established their own identities in the film business?

I've had wonderful children. I'd like to show you a picture of Sofia's daughter but it's a teeny little one. (He whipped out his iPhone and held it up for the reporters to see the photo.) I also have a beautiful granddaughter who is 20 years old (**Gian-Carla**, the daughter of his eldest son, **Gian-Carlo**, who was killed in a boating accident). I may even be a candidate one day to be a great grandfather. It's possible.

We have a very strong, traditional family. M
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TEN years since his last film, director Francis Ford Coppola, right, is back with "Youth Without Youth," which stars Tim Roth, left.

y. only heartbreak is that ve in different places. Sofia ris on and off now. My an lives here in LA. itely, I don't get to as much as I would

s little and soft- ut she's hard as hen she made ranslation," she with little en- ent. I mean, er father and a hat put some it (laughter). ed real bravery. I e Virgin Suicides" is just haunting and poetic. She's

e of you who have children r they are the ones who are bringing us the currents s of contemporary culture. nstantly educating us. We children with a feeling of nt. We told Sofia, "You're a an. You can do anything." ed us.

r thing that my children that whatever work you do, ersonal and that you care . Don't just make a film be- y've offered you a lot of on't think about whether it a great opportunity or a ess. Don't worry about suc- ilure. Success or failure is 20 or 30 years later. I per- el that "Marie Antoinette" 006 film) was the most orig- of the year. It was virtually l and yet, if you look at the the actors, you saw what ve been the dialogue. She what was almost like a po- ly, the real success of a film later.

knows who won the Oscar ocalypse Now" was made. I ch my children that. When ssed, they say, "All that mat- king personal films. Just go and show them all what you to do."

s "Youth Without Youth" with you?

ve were shooting the end of , I overheard someone say- thing very disconcerting. lert: The following section e film's ending.) He said, (the main character, played toth) dies like a homeless old man in the snow." He t Dominic died alone and I when we die, don't we die may have people there or but we die alone. The differ- in your life, you have really have been loved when you ie in a moment in grace... have to say that in my life, about to die, I am going to g, "Oh, what an interesting d. I got to work in such an g profession—the motion I got to have a wonderful children. I even got to see en work in the field I love. I in the wine business and I ssful in it." I'm listing these I wouldn't notice that I'm ghter). That's a moment of I that's what happened to That's what will happen to opefully to all of you, those ho die (laughter). (End of rt).

ill harbor dreams?

ve youthful dreams. I want nd direct personal movies. I want to waste our time talk- the stalemate I got into big project "Megalopolis." I project so ambitious that it ssible to achieve.

therefore grateful when I Eliade story because he time and consciousness, was interested in. I was o follow in Eliade's foot- ade the film faithful to his that's why it's full of philo- mplications. Those are his. I dent and he is the master. my dream is that it was a my next film which I am al- paring in Argentina. It is a iginal screenplay. Doing thout Youth" has not taken at I really want, which is to write a story from scratch.

er force came down and ou to decide how you cide to spend the rest of —a filmmaker or a wine- hat would you say?

I like to be a filmmaker be- ed by the winery (laugh-

the columnist at 5585@yahoo.com and read "The Nepales Report," on irerbloggers.net/nepalesre-

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1 THE SEEKER 3:35, 6:05 GP | KNOCKED UP 8:25, 11:10 R-18
2 RENDITION 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:35 R-13
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL 1:40, 4:00 PG-13 | STARDUST 7:55, 10:40 G
4 LUST, CAUTION 1:25, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55 R-18

MTRCB R-18 No one below 18 years of age may be admitted
FROM THE ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR OF CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON AND THE PRODUCER OF FEARLESS
TONY LEUNG introducing TANG WEI LEEHOM WANG
TO KILL THE ENEMY, SHE MUST CAPTURE HIS HEART... AND BREAK HER OWN.
ANG LEE
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From Ang Lee, the award-winning director of "Brokeback Mountain" and "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon"
A startling, erotic espionage thriller to be shown in its original UNCUT version.
The film is about a young secret agent (Tang Wei) who was assigned to seduce a high-ranking intelligence official (Tony Leung) of the puppet government in WWII Shanghai. As she plunged deeper into the dangerous game of lust, betrayal and espionage, she slowly realized that her relationship with her prey had evolved into something she did not expect.
"A sumptuous, masterful piece of cinema... The torrid, full nudity scenes... set the screen ablaze." Ruben Nepales, Philippine Daily Inquirer
"a tragic melodrama... This time love is a performance, a trap... an illusion." Dennis Lim, New York Times
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BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL PG13 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20
STARDUST G 12:40,2:55,5:15, 7:35,10:00
LUST CAUTION R18 1:00,4:10,7:20,10:30
UNREST R13 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10
RENDITION R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30
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UNITED BY BLOOD. DIVIDED BY CRIME.
Two brothers on opposite sides of the law. Beyond their differences lies loyalty.
EVA MENDES ROBERT DUVALL
OPENS NOV. 7
VIVA
WE OWN THE NIGHT

OPENS NOVEMBER 7
MTRCB Rating G | All Ages Admitted
Half his size, twice the trouble
...and she's moving in.
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DWAYNE 'THE ROCK' JOHNSON
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THE GAMEPLAN
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HALLOWEEN 30,591,759
DISTURBIA 22,224,982
1408 20,667,667
MESSENGERS 17,713,321
30 DAYS OF NIGHT 15,591,902
28 WEEKS LATER 9,807,292
UNMASK THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL
A ROB ZOMBIE FILM
HALLOWEEN
OPENS OCTOBER 31
VIVA

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
PIERCE BROSNAN 007 VS GERARD BUTLER 300
AN UNFAITHFUL WIFE.
AN UNSUSPECTING HUSBAND.
AN OBSESSIVE LOVER.
BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
ONE HEAVENLY ENCOUNTER CAN BRING A LIFETIME OF HELL.
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Alessandra sick of villainess roles

By Marinel R. Cruz

AWARD-WINNING ACTRESS ALESSANdra "Alex" de Rossi says she is fed up with playing *contravida* roles on television.

She first played the villainess Valentina opposite Angel Locsin's Darna on GMA 7 in 2005. The following year, she portrayed the role of Nickellina, the wicked aunt in "Super Twins."

Now she is Luming, the bitter and jealous childhood friend of Yasmien Kurdi's Lupe in

ALESSANDRA de Rossi

"I say the same lines: *Maghanda kayo, papatayin ko kayo ...*' I'm tired of it."

"Pasan ko ang Daigdig."

"I've been like this for two years. I say the same lines: '*Maghanda kayo, papatayin ko kayo.*' It doesn't work for me anymore. I'm tired of it," the outspoken Alex told INQUIRER Entertainment last week. "But beggars can't be choosers. I consider myself lucky. Not all actors have work these days."

Best supporting actress

Alex's career took off after her impressive performance in different drama films, including Joel Lamangan's "Hubog" and Carlitos Siguion-Reyna's "Azucena," which both earned for her Best Supporting Actress awards in 2001 from the Film Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas) and the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), respectively.

In 2006, Alex played a Filipina househelp in Singapore in the horror flick "The Maid," by Singaporean director Kelvin Tong.

Now she stars in another thriller, Rahyan Carlos' "Hide and Seek," where she plays the murder victim Dolor. Also in the cast are Eric Quizon, Jean Garcia, Ryan Eigenmann, Valeen Montenegro, Julijo Pisk, Angel Sy, Rubirubi, Jennica Garcia and Mart Escudero.

Dream role

"I don't like playing a ghost so much," Alex, 23, said of her role in the movie, which premieres tonight at SM Megamall. "'*Di ko* feel. If I'll be asked to make another scary movie, I hope my role will be a sexy vampire. Actually, my dream role is to play a mermaid. I've always wanted to be one since I was 5 years old."

But the feisty Filipino-Italian actress said she has no intention of auditioning for the lead role in the upcoming series "Dyesebel," the TV adaptation of Mars Ravelo's famous *komiks* character. "*Hindi ko na pahihirapan ang sarili ko.* I know what the big bosses are looking for—someone with big boobs and lots of screaming fans," she stressed.

While she feels frustrated with work, Alex claims she is happy to be single and unattached, after breaking up with actor Jeremy Marquez, the son of former Parañaque City mayor Joey Marquez.

"I'm not dating anyone right now," she said. "I normally stay home and read books, surf the Net, watch TV or write on my journal."

Patching up with Jules

Alex said she gets to spend more time with her sister Assunta these days, adding that they now have dinners or hear Mass together.

She has also decided to patch things up with Assunta's husband, former congressman Jules Ledesma, with whom she had had public spats before.

"We're cool. He's part of my posse now," Alex said of Jules. "He hangs out with Assunta at my house, too. My friends and I even spent four days at his house in Negros Oriental last year."

Alex mentioned that her two sisters, Margherita, 18, and Isabel, 13, who are both still in Italy with their parents, might also join show biz someday.

"I CONSIDER myself lucky. Not all actors have work these days," says Alex, shown here with co-stars Eric Quizon and Jean Garcia.

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UNREST

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Vampires roam in 30 days of darkness in horror movie starring hot Josh Hartnett
For centuries, vampires have stayed in the dark, forced to hide each morning or else be destroyed by the sun's burning power.
Blood-thirsty, flesh-eating vampires viciously attack Barrow, Alaska, a remote town plunged into 30 days of darkness in winter, bringing its hapless residents to its knees. How do they survive till daylight finally comes?
Hot Hollywood actor and recent Philippines visitor Josh Hartnett stars as the embattled Sheriff Eben in 30 DAYS OF NIGHT, based on the groundbreaking graphic novel by Steve Niles and Ben Templesmith.
Bring a date or the barkada to a theatre near you!
30 DAYS OF NIGHT
OPENS OCTOBER 31!

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WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM...
COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!
SOMEONE YOU LOVE JUST DISAPPEARED.
NOBODY IS TELLING THE TRUTH.
JAKE GYLLENHAAL REESE WITHERSPOON
RENDITION

OPENS NOVEMBER 7
Everybody loved him.
One woman understood him.
Inspired by the extraordinary life of salsa legend, Hector Lavoe.
JENNIFER LOPEZ
MARC ANTHONY
EL CANTANTE
THEIR MUSIC CHANGED THE WORLD.

ENTERTAINMENT

Pinoy F4

Asian superstar Ken Zhu feels at home in Batanes

FORMER boy band member Ken is deglamorized as a Taiwanese fisherman marooned on an island province.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos courtesy of Ignite Media and Roger Robles

BASCO, BATANES—"HE'S VERY FILIPINO," Iza Calzado describes co-star Ken Zhu of F4 fame. "He's having so much fun here."

The Taiwanese singer-actor was in the northernmost Philippine island-province for 10 days for the shoot of the romance drama "Batanes," directed by Adolf Alix Jr. and Dave Hukom for Ignite Media. Ken is set to come back on the third week of November for the movie's opening.

"He loves joking around and singing standards by Frank Sinatra. Pinoy *na* Pinoy," Iza tells INQUIRER Entertainment on the movie's set on White Beach, Batanes, on Tuesday.

THE singer-actor in a wedding scene with Iza Calzado. He taught her a few tai chi moves.

Co-star Glaiza de Castro agrees: "He's cool. I only used to watch him on 'Meteor Garden,' but now I got to act with him. I never imagined he's that approachable."

Another co-actor, Coco Martin, relates that Ken "bonded" with the Filipino cast and crew. "At first he was shy. But soon enough, he started jamming, eating and chatting with us."

Ken is no stranger to the country. It's his fourth trip to the Philippines, but his first to Batanes—which is nearer to Taiwan than to Manila, he points out.

"My first trip abroad was to Manila. I was only 7 then," Ken looks back. "I loved this dessert called *halo-halo*. Everywhere I looked there were guitars."

The Filipinos' innate warmth and musicality impressed him.

Associate director Armando A. Reyes recalls that Ken, Iza, Glaiza and Bembol Roco sang "Do Re Mi" from "The Sound of Music" on the set one slow day.

There was a light and jovial mood on this set.

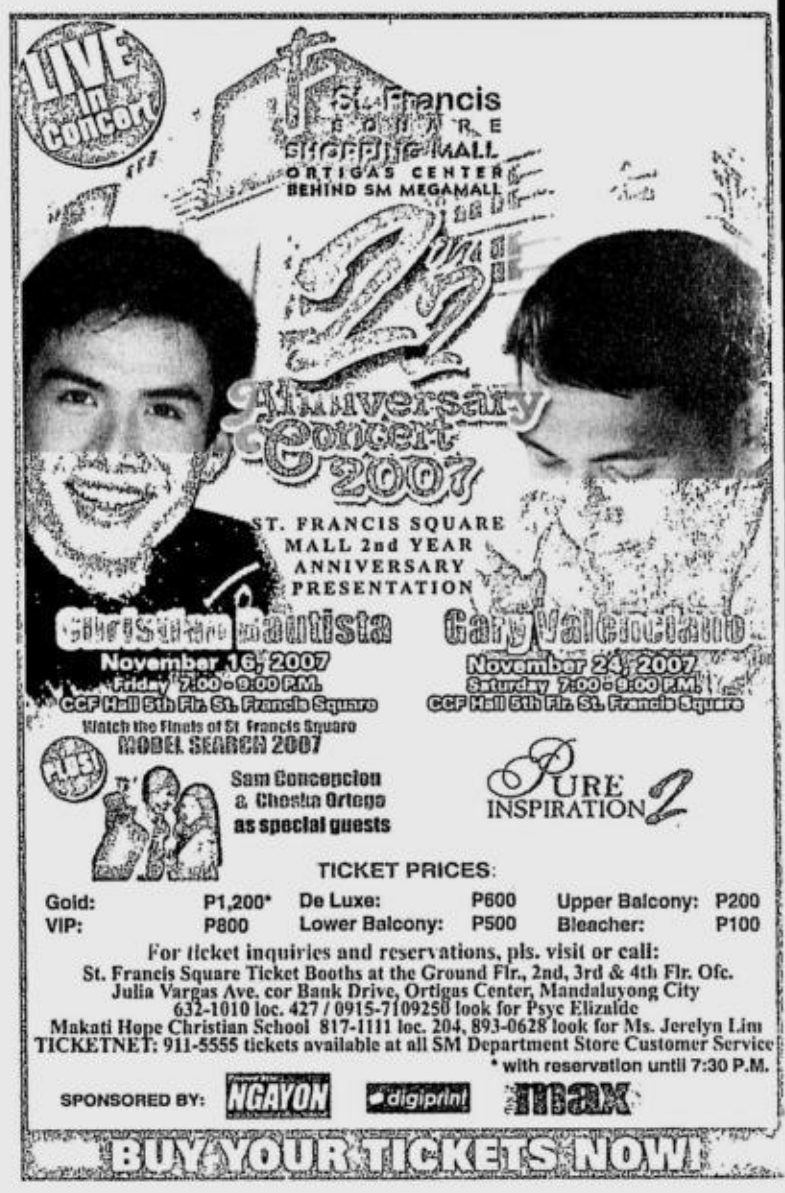
Direk Arman and co-star Sid Lucero's jokes broke the ice with Ken, Iza reminisces.

"Like me, Ken was also feeling his way through at first. He was tired when he got here because he came from Spain where he had topped a tai chi competition."

Ken taught Iza a few tai chi moves because, Ken explains, the skill helps him in "communicating" with his fellow actors. "It also keeps me healthy and gets rid of stress. It calms me down after a highly emotional scene."

Apart from singing and tai chi, the talented Ken is also a whiz in the kitchen. He

PINOY F4/ H2



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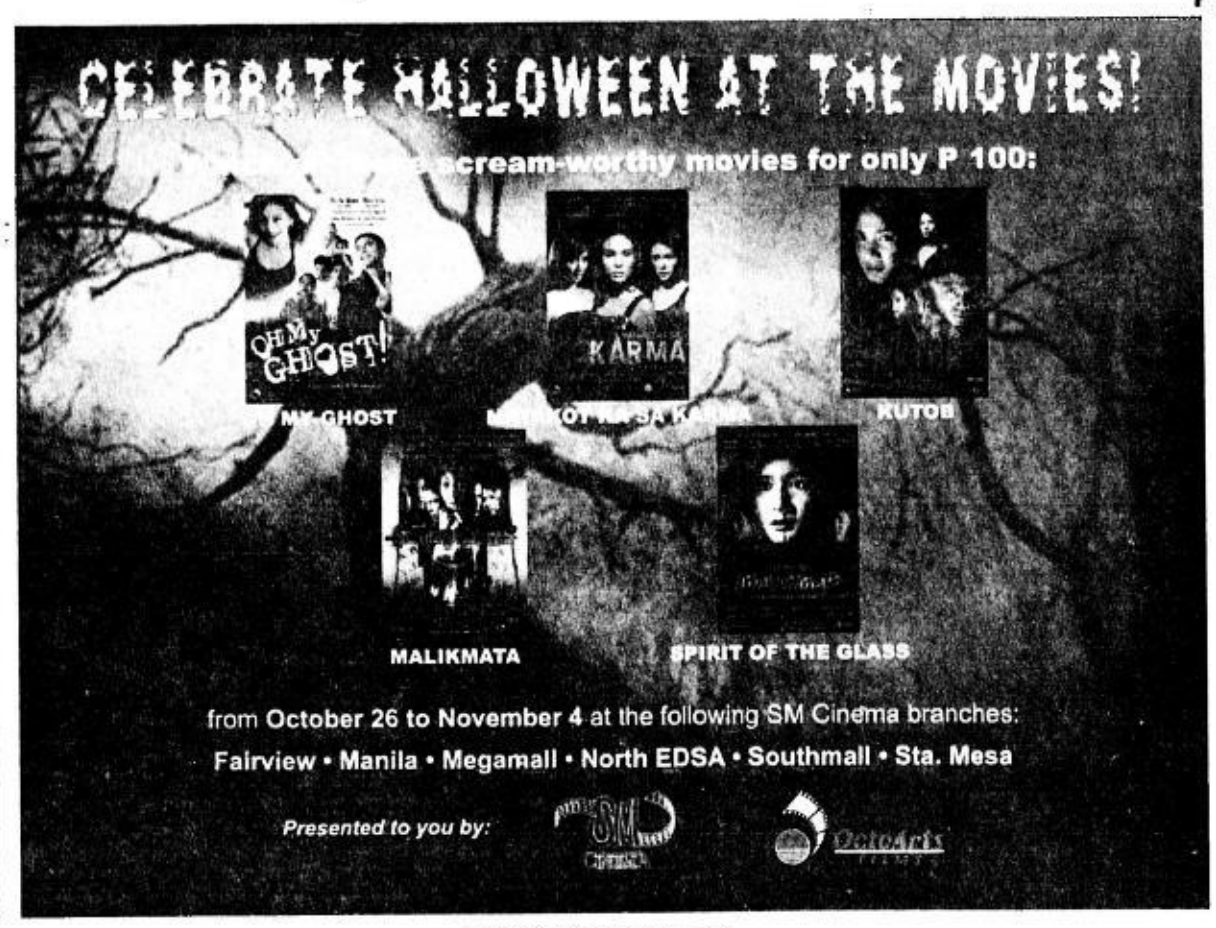

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2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 RENDITION
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
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10 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11 NO RESERVATIONS/ CARTOON NETWORK
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
5 ROGUE ASSASSIN
6 RENDITION
7 MR. WOODCOCK
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 UNREST
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 11TH HOUR
12 FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 RENDITION
2 MR. WOODCOCK
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 HIGHLANDER V
6 STARDUST
7 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11 FRIGHT FEST
12 CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 FRIGHT FEST
5 RENDITION
6 KUNG FU FIGHTER
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 HIGHLANDER V/CARTOON NETWORK
9 STARDUST
10 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 UNREST
2 RENDITION
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3/ CARTOON NETWORK
5 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 RENDITION
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 UNREST
4 FRIGHT FEST
5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
6 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
7 STARDUST
8 RESIDENT EVIL 3
9 RETRIBUTION/CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

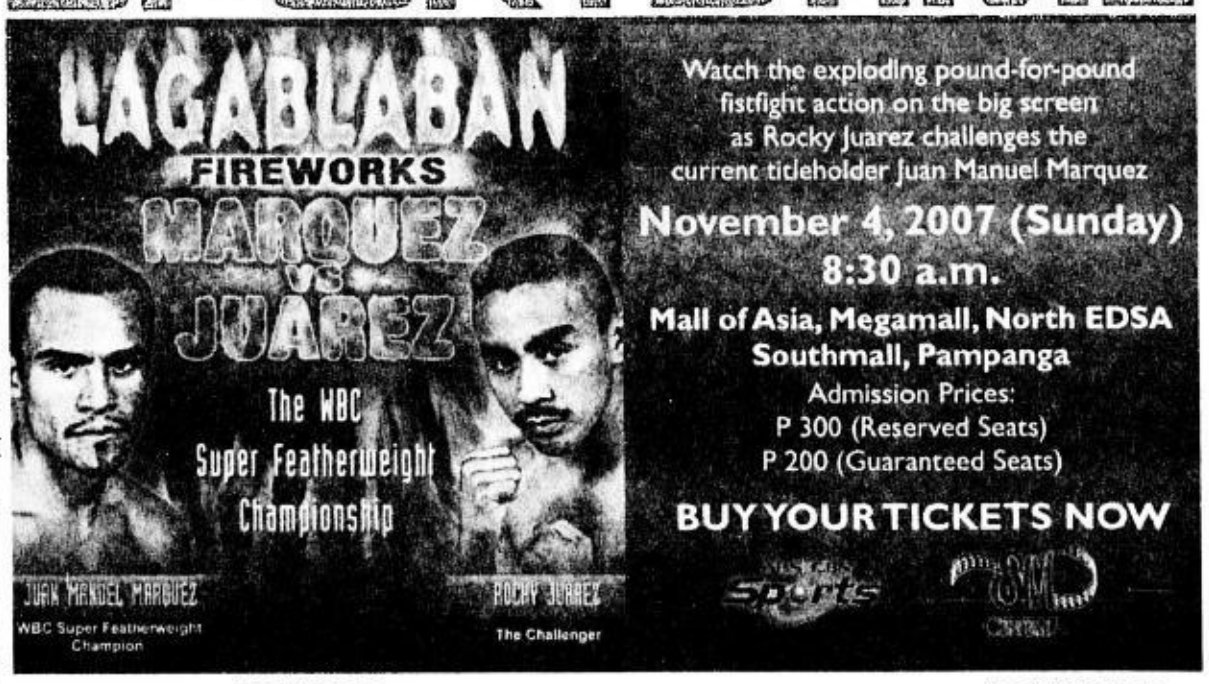
SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 RENDITION
6 RESERVED
7 STARDUST
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 FRIGHT FEST
10 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY/ CARTOON NETWORK
11 RETRIBUTION/ HIGHLANDER V
12 UNREST

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4333201-04
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RISE
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 NO RESERVATIONS

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 HIGHLANDER V
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SPORTSTIME



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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
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3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RETRIBUTION
5 RESIDENT EVIL 3
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
8 RENDITION

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 STARDUST
4 RETRIBUTION
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 EVENING/CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE HOST

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9837081-85
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 RETRIBUTION
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 EVENING/CARTOON NETWORK
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 DECEMBER BOYS
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 DECEMBER BOYS/ I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RISE
4 SHOOT EM' UP

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 MR. WOODCOCK

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 CARTOON NETWORK/ THE SEEKER THE DARK IS RISING
6 STARDUST

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RETRIBUTION
4 SKINWALKERS

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RETRIBUTION
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 DECEMBER BOYS
6 RESERVED
7 RESERVED
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 STARDUST
2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 FRIGHT FEST/ EVENING
5 RETRIBUTION
6 CARTOON NETWORK/ DECEMBER BOYS
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 STARDUST
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

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CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 RENDITION
3 UNREST
4 LUST CAUTION(SNEAK PREVIEW)

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(Mandaluyong) tel. 7265150
3 HIGHLANDER -V
4 RENDITION
5

metropolis star cinemas
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(ALABANG) tel. 8504288, 5433994
1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIGHLANDER -V
3 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

THEATRES
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA
CINEMAGIC
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 RISE
3 RESERVED
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FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 RENDITION
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 UNREST
4 LUST CAUTION(SNEAK PREVIEW)
5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
6 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
7 NO RESERVATION
8 KNOCKED UP
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 RENDITION
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 UNREST
5 RENDITION

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
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2 CHUCK & LARRY
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 RENDITION
3 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 STURDUST
4 RETRIBUTION

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
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2 RENDITION
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL / STURDUST
4 LUST CAUTION(SNEAK PREVIEW)

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
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3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 KNOCKED UP
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1 NO RESERVATION / DECEMBER BOYS
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3 KNOCKED UP
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2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

Lianas Cinema (Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 DAY WATCH
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 WEDDING DAZE
2 MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
3 BATANG MAGDALENA
4 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 THREE
5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2 KNOCKED UP
3 DECEMBER BOYS
4 RESIDENT EVIL

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SIYA AY NAHDADALAGA
2 BEDROOM SECRET

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FROM TIME TO TIME, members of the show biz audience get in touch with us to ask for clarifications about some aspects of the entertainment trade that puzzle or shock them.

At a school forum recently, we got more than the usual number of befuddled queries, indicating that the show biz audience is less prone to taking things sitting down than it used to be in more clueless times:

Fictitious scandals

A viewer shared that he had the nagging feeling that some of the scandals and controversies involving local stars and starlets were "invented" or "exaggerated" to boost their careers. We agreed, sharing that some stars' handlers had gotten in touch with us, dangling "exclusives" about them that turned out to be concocted.

The discussion went on to include some big scandals that members of the audience hindsight, had been boost a career that comeback, or to gen interest in a new sh tandem.

The wonder, of c many viewers swall fabrications hook. "stinker." The reason almost "hypnotic" po sion to make fictiv appear to be facts.

Quite a number of been psychologically liminally programme ing, "If it's on TV, it m tant—and it must be

How to help viev more discerning abo occasionally spuri tions"? They should reminded that this el fakery" does exis shouldn't believe ev see or are told on TV.

The next nagging even more confound

Pinoy F4

From page H1

wrote a cookbook entitled "Delicious Relationships" and conducts culinary workshops for his fans.

He tells INQUIRER Entertainment that he intends to cook for the crew. "It's a simple family recipe made of eggs and tomatoes."

The actor/singer/tai chi champ/ cook is also a reflexologist.

"On the first day, after noticing that I sprained my left foot, he massaged it," Adolf n "Althoug he's down-t "He wen on his first "When I wanted to g Adolf t him, but t him. He exp Ken has

POLO Ravales

SUNSHINE Dizon

Free 'load' . . .

From page H4

•Lolit *handang makipag-ayos kina* Piolo at Sam.

•Lolit in another scam again? *Iiyak na naman ba si* Piolo *sa* 'The Buzz'?

•*Pagsasampa ng demanda kay* Lolit: *Salitang 'naglalampungan' pagbabatayan ng mga abugado nina* Piolo at Sam.

•Lolit: "Ready *na ako sa anumang kaso na isasampa ni* Sam."

•Lolit *sinungaling daw?*

•**Anne Curtis**, *umamin sa relasyon nila ni* Sam Milby.

•Sam *biglang umamin tungkol kay* Anne.

•Anne: Sam's not gay.

•Anne, *walang naaamoy na malansa kay* Sam.

•*Huwag kayong maghanap ng bading sa* PBB house; *tibo ang hanapin niyo.*

•**Mariel Rodriguez** scripted *ang galaw sa* PBB.

•**Ethel Booba**, *nanghihipo ng* PBB housemates!

•Ethel, *nade-develop na sa* co-housemate.

•**Oyo Sotto** *madalas magbabad kay* **Kristine Hermosa.**

•Kristine *'di nagkamali kay* Oyo.—Anne Curtis

•Kristine *at* Oyo, *kung kailan wala si* Diet, *saka lumantad!*

•Kristine *naagaw na ni* Oyo *kay* Diet?

Making hay

•**Jennylyn Mercado** *tambak ang trabaho sa Siyete.*

•**Ara Mina**, *sunud-sunod ang raket sa Dos.*

•Ara, *nagpaalam muna sa Siyete bago tinanggap ang alok sa Dos.*

•Ara feels loyalty not getting her anywhere.

•Ara moving to ABS-CBN?

•**Cristine Reyes** *bibitbitin ni* Ara *sa* ABS-CBN?

Gimmicks galore

•**Criselda Volks**, *gimik lang ang pagpapakamatay?!*

•**Martin, Pops** to kiss and make up? (If it helps promote each other's concerts, why not?)

•Martin *payag pa mag-guest sa* concert *ni* Pops. *(Yun na.)*

•Diamonds *ni* **Jinkee Pacquiao**, *kay* **Annabelle Rama** *binibili.*

•*Bakasyon, regalo ni* Vic **Sotto** *kay* **Pia Guanio.**

•**Ruffa Mae Quinto**, *nag-walkout sa concert ni* **Erik Santos.**

•Ruffa Mae, *pinatawad na si* Erik.

•Ruffa Mae: Erik not doing anything to win me back.

•Ruffa Mae *inokray* Ai-Ai.

•*Mga bata, bawal sa concert ni* Ai-Ai.

•Ai-Ai *magta-topless sa* Araneta?

•*Hanggat 'di nagkakaanak ng lalaki . . . Mga 30 anak pa kay* **Sunshine Cruz**, target *ni* **Cesar Montano.** (That's the par-it!)

•*Kahit gustong mapunasawa si* Vic, Pia *'di pa feel magkaanak.*

•**Paolo Bediones** *nasisiraan ang araw 'pag naririnig ang pangalang* **Angelica Jones.**

•**Aiko** *malas sa pag-ibig! Suwerte naman sa pera!*

•Aiko *nagpa-lipo, nagpabawas ng* boobs.

•Sex video, *pinatotohanan ng* Baywalk Bodies member.

•*Sinisiguro ng member ng* Baywalk Bodies *kay* **Will Devaughn** *ang* sex video.

•**Palmolive Palma** *ng* Baywalk Bodies, *umiiwas sa* cell phone video *nila ni* Will.

•**Daisy Romualdez** still looking for **Danita.**

•*Niresbakan ang mga bro ng bandang* Calla Lily: *"Sinungaling ka!"*—Daisy Romualdez

•*Mensahe para kay* **Polo Ravales**: "Shut up and talk to me straightforward." —**Sunshine Dizon** (Say that again?)

•*"Wala akong dapat ipag-alala wanag."*—Polo

•Sunshine *'nag-iinit' kay* **Angelu.**

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Nagging questions about show business

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Viewers are now less prone to taking things sitting down

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question was
g: "Why are so many stars obviously undeserving of stardom? If they're not all that talented, why do producers make them stars in the first place?"

Well, some "undeserving" stars are related to producers and directors, others are romantically linked to them, and still others are mistresses or boy toys of wealthy people—who foot the bill for their starring vehicles.

'Sponsored' stars

The silver lining here is that most "sponsored" stars don't last beyond their launching productions (unless their wealthy sponsors have really deep pockets). So, their ability to disappoint or irritate us is usually of blessedly brief duration.

Next question, please? "Are there too many commercials on TV? Is there an allowable limit to the number of advertisements that can be shown in one hour?" Other concerned viewers have raised this question, done their own minute-by-minute tallies, and concluded that commercial limits are indeed occasionally being exceeded.

What can be done about this? Viewers should complain, not just to the TV networks, but also to government regulatory bodies that can conduct official time-ratio surveys to determine specific instances of excess.

Finally: "Are those TV coverage of movie premieres for real? They feature members of the audience shrieking rave reviews of the movie they've just seen—are those ecstatic reactions to be believed?"

Well, some positive reactions, especially those uttered by celebrity viewers, may be on the up-and-up but the shrieking raves by "ordinary" viewers at the premiere are questionable. Some of them look and sound staged for effect.

Do they work? Do they succeed in luring people to the theaters? Only if viewers believe in them—should we?

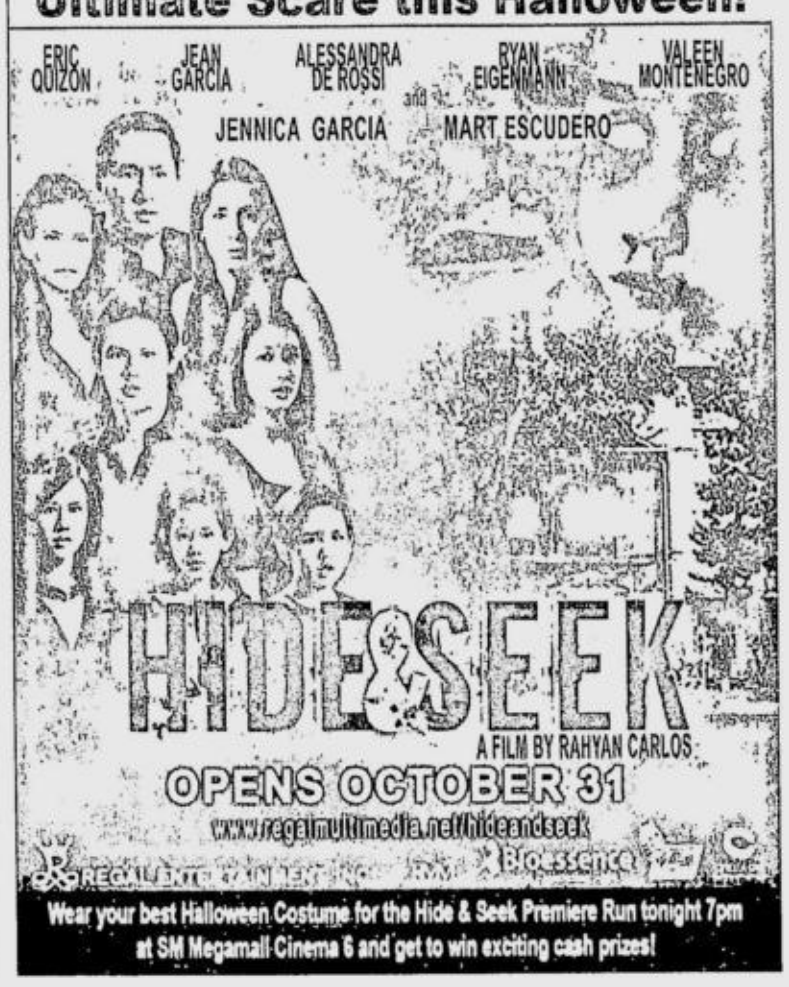
The key question is: When were *you* so giddily and volubly ecstatic about a movie that you'd just seen? Never? Hardly ever? Let that realization be your guide.

---

tes.
he's an Asian superstar,
)-earth," Iza says.
motorbiking on his own
ay," Adolf recounts.
got here, I was pale. I
t a tan," Ken says.
ates: "The locals know
ey didn't mob or bother
erienced freedom here."
llen in love with Batanes and its people so much that he is planning to buy a piece of property here. "I love this place. It's paradise. I've never seen an island as beautiful as this. Very promising."

He is raring to come back and work in the Philippines again.

He says that, in spite of the hectic working schedule, the Filipinos "are the most heartwarming crew I've met. They're like family to me now."



AT THE CINEMAS

THX

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

GLORIETTA	1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	2 RENDITION	3 THE UNREST	4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
GLORIETTA 4	1 STARDUST	2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	3 THX BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 MR. WOODCOCK	5 PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER	6 RENDITION	7 KNOCKED UP
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GREENBELT 3	1 THX BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX RENDITION GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 KNOCKED UP GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS	5 STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX RENDITION		2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	
	3 STARDUST	4 THE 11TH HOUR	5 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DECEMBER BOYS	2 SHOOT 'EM UP	3 EVENING	4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
MARKET! MARKET!	1 RENDITION		2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	
	3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	5 THE UNREST	
TRINOMA	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	3 THE UNREST GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 STARDUST	6 KNOCKED UP	7 THX RENDITION GUARANTEED SEATS	

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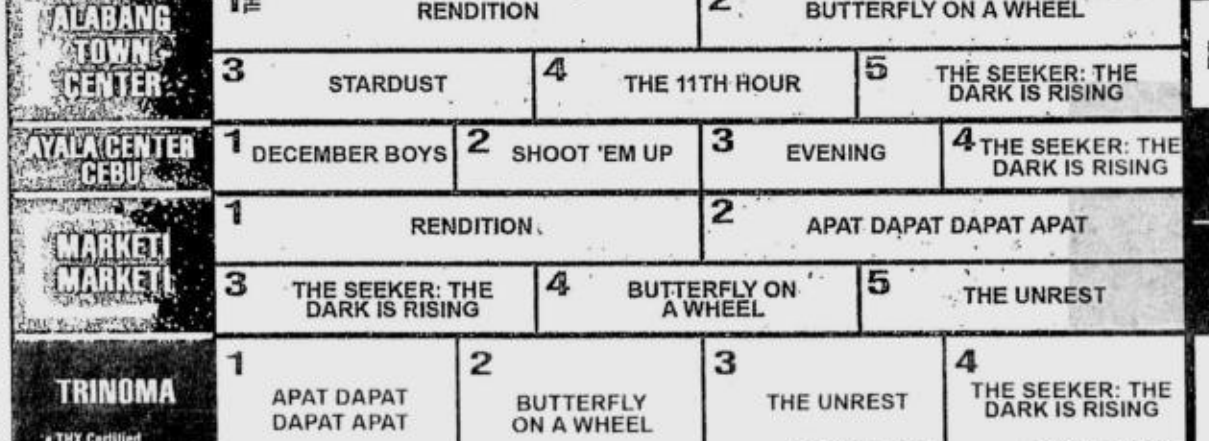
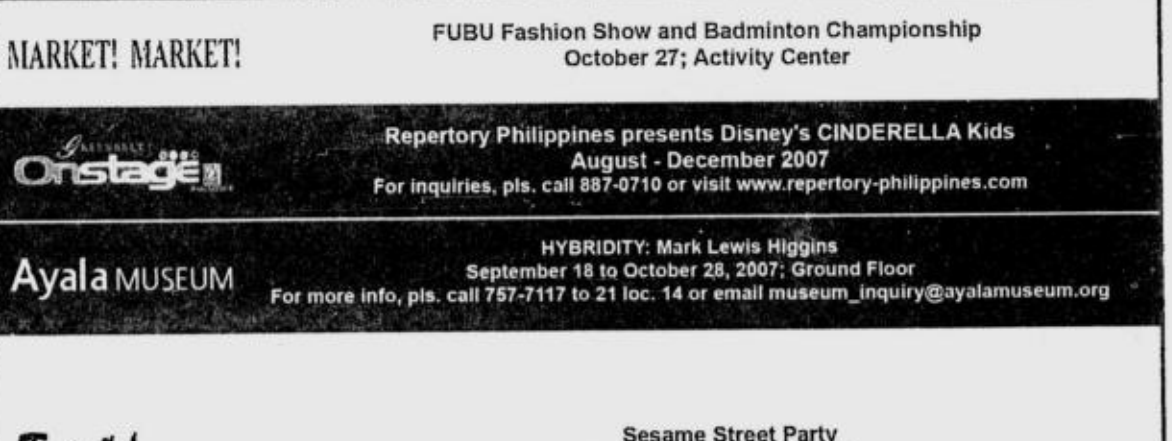
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	Halloween Treat: NWA's Science Fiction Fantasy Convention October 27; Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Trick or Treat at Greenbelt 3 Park October 25 to 28 and 31
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Sesame Street Party October 27; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Kiddo Halloween Event October 27; Activity Center and On Stage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	FUBU Fashion Show and Badminton Championship October 27; Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Sesame Street Party October 28; Activity Center





glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

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Free 'load' for freeloader

By The INQUIRER Entertainment Staff

A FORMER SEXY ACTOR LIKES TELLING everyone about his impoverished condition.

Nothing shameful about being poor. But he also kept asking for cell phone "load" from someone he had just met on the set of his latest project.

Cyber date

During his recent Manila visit, this foreign celebrity hooked up with a local cutie he had met on the website Friendster.

The cyber date was later spotted in the visitor's hotel room.

Caught in the act

Shooting in the province has its perks for this hunk.

He met, wooed and bedded a local beauty even though his stay in the barrio was not that long.

Fortunately, they were caught in the "act" by another "out-of-towner" and not by the girl's relatives.

Secret's not safe

A sexually ambiguous heartthrob was so giddy with excitement that he "lovingly" embraced a fellow screen idol in the presence of a stunned co-worker.

The guy's manager quickly admonished him for his indiscretion, but the closeted star retorted just as swiftly: "Don't worry, our secret's safe with [co-worker's name]."

Apparently not, since the "secret" reached Rushes.

Inappropriate joke

NEW YORK—Actress **Halle Berry** has apologized for making an inappropriate joke at last Friday's taping of NBC's "The Tonight Show."

Berry showed host **Jay Leno** photos of herself that she had distorted by using computer software, and remarked that one snapshot—in which her nose appeared "cartoonishly" large—made her "look like my Jewish cousin."

After she made the comment, Leno joked: "I'm glad you said it."

"I didn't mean to offend anybody—and after the show I realized it could be seen as offensive, so I asked Jay to take it out, and he did," Berry told the New York Post. *AP*

RUSHES SUNDAY

QUEEN Latifah

AP

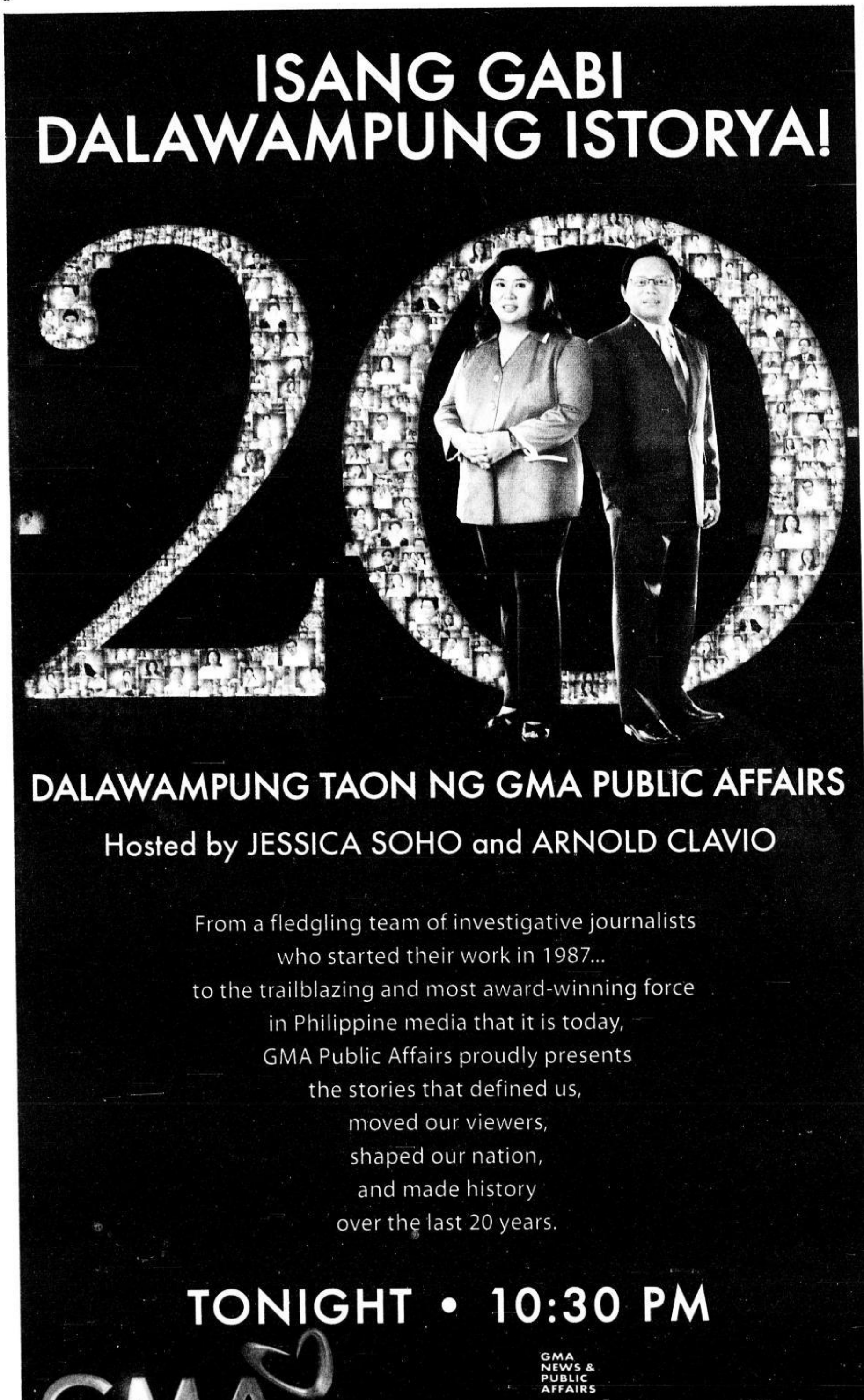
Voluptuous beauty

NEW YORK—**Queen Latifah** says the definition of beauty is changing.

"Beauty is not just a white girl. It's so many different flavors and shades," the 37-year-old rapper-actress tells People magazine in its latest issue. "It's good for regular girls because the meter (for beauty) has been a slim white girl."

Latifah describes herself as being voluptuous—"definitely curvaceous."

"I think I'm normal compared to the statistics," she says. "This is a big country nowadays." *AP*



The last of Simply Red

LONDON—British soul band Simply Red are to split up after 25 years in the music business, its frontman **Mick Hucknall** said Wednesday.

The band, named after Hucknall's beloved Manchester United football club, the color of his hair and their political leanings, shot to fame with hits like "Holding Back The Years," "If You Don't Know Me By Now" and "Fairground."

But after selling more than 50 million albums, Hucknall, 47, said it was time to call it a day.

Hucknall has recently recorded an album in tribute to blues and R&B artist **Bobby Bland** and said he wanted to explore the genre further—but does not think it is possible with Simply Red. *AFP*

Remakes galore

VIVA is reportedly planning a big-screen remake of the 1980s hit "Working Girls," with **Rufa Mae Quinto** in the lead.

RUFA Mae Quinto

Quinto tells Rushes that she has heard the rumor, "but I'm not free to do it, since I'm filming 'Pasukob' and 'Desperadas.' Maybe next year."

Another Viva material that's being remade—this time, for the small screen, by ABS-CBN—is the youth flick "Bagets."

Finalized divorce

LOS ANGELES—Actress **Kate Hudson**'s divorce from rocker **Chris Robinson** was finalized in the Los Angeles Superior Court on Thursday.

Details of their child custody arrangement and property division were not disclosed. They have a 3-year-old son. *AP*

* * *

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

Angel in disguise?

- **Angel Locsin** says *'di siya dapat sisihin sa pagkawala ng* projects *ni* **Jennylyn Mercado**.
- Friendship *nina* Jennylyn *at* Angel, *may lamat na!*
- Jennylyn *hindi ka-vibes si* Angel.
- Angel Locsin, *ayaw pang umamin tungkol sa kanila ni* **Luis Manzano**?
- Angel: *"Hindi ako anghel!" (Nay!!)*

A word from Kuya Germs

- **Kuya Germs**: *"Hindi ka nga ba nag-grow sa* GMA, Angel?"
- Kuya Germs *binibira si* Angel!
- 'Marimar' *ni* **Marian**, record-breaking.
- *Mga kumukutya noon kay* Marian, *'nagdurusa' ngayon.*
- Hopeless *na ang* 'Boy & Kris' *na yan!*
- **Jennica** and **Mart** *umamin na sa relasyon;* **Jean Garcia** *sobrang irita.*
- Jean approves of **Mart** for **Jennica**. *(Ano ba talaga?)*
- Jean Garcia *'di raw lasengga.*
- Jean: *"Sa lahat ng* alcoholic, *ba't maganda ako?" (Hehe.)*
- Jean: *"Saksakin niyo na 'ko!" (Nay!!!)*

See you in court?

- *Kapag hindi nag-*retract *at nag-*public apology ... **Lolit Solis** *idedemanda ni* **Sam Milby**.
- Sam to sue Lolit; **Piolo** to follow suit?
- *Hamon ni* Lolit kay Sam: *"Idemanda mo ako!"*
- Lolit *malabong mag-*public apology.
- Lolit: *"Dapat ba akong ma-*afraid *sa bantang demanda ng isang* American citizen?"
- Lolit: *"Hindi ang isang* Sam Milby *ang magpapa-nerbiyos sa akin."*

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2007

SMALL BUSINESS GUARANTEE AND CORPORATION

17th Floor 139 Corporate Center, 139 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City

INVITATION TO BID

The following properties are offered for sale thru Public Bidding on October 30, 2007

Asset Code	Lot Size (sqm)	TCT No.	Description/location	Minimum bid price
Real Properties				
1. MMMA	1,997	421862	Agricultural land located at Bo. Anupul, Bambam, Tarlac	758,000.00
2. SRRC - 1	2,299	T-5745	Agricultural land located at Bo. Namnama, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao	527,440.00
SRRC - 2	5,000	ARP # 1999-088003-00687	Agricultural land located at Bo. Bangigue, Kiangan, Ifugao	25,000.00
3. A.S CAD	375	T-24649	Industrial Furniture Shop located at Narra St., Poblacion Norte, Madella, Quirino	131,250.00
4. DECO	1,500	419173	Agro-Industrial land located at Maliwao-R8, Zone 5, Maliwalo Tarlac, Tarlac	2,969,080.00
5. JVFK	705	306027	Residential lot located at Bo. Sapang, Manaoag, Pangasinan	423,000.00
6. SRND	15,130	T-138939	Residential house located along Bo. Bawi, Padre Garcia, Batangas City	3,046,120.00
Personal Properties				
Type of Equipment				
7. (1) unit Multi-Tech Piping Machine			Model No. MT-3503 Serial No. 945085. Complete with Clutch Motor, working table and other standard accessories.	14,000.00
8. "Kingtex" Cylinder Bed Type Hemming Machine			Model No. CTL-6511and Serial No. 2031429. Complete with Clutch Motor, working table and other standard accessories "Automatic" Made in Korea.	46,000.00
9. Five (5) units "Kingtex" High Speed Machine Single needle complete with clutch motor, working table and other standard accessories "Automatic." Made in Korea			Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987257 Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987407 Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987411 Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987564 Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987271	8,000.00 8,000.00 8,000.00 8,000.00 8,000.00
10. Four Units "Kingtex Computerized High Speed Machines Single needle complete with clutch motor, working table and other standard accessories "Automatic" Made in Korea			Model No. KL-300M/A and Serial No.2019041 Model No. KL-300M/A and Serial No.2027578 Model No. KL-300M/A and Serial No.2026850 Model No. KL-300M/A and Serial No.2026841 All sewing machines are located at SBGFC warehouse in Cubao, Quezon City.	13,000.00 13,000.00 13,000.00 13,000.00
11. 7 units Split Type-Trane aircon			SBGFC warehouse in Cubao, Quezon City	56,000.00
12. High Book Shelf			-do-	400.00
13. 3 units White Board (with frame)			-do-	1,560.00
14. 11 units double Computer Tables 6 units single Computer Tables			-do- -do-	8,800.00 2,400.00
15. One (1) unit Clerical Chairs with arms Two (2) units without arms One (1) unit screw type			-do-	300.00 400.00 150.00
16. Nine (9) units double Computer Table			Warehouse in Taguig City	7,200.00
17. 2 units Customized Table			SBGFC warehouse in Dasmariñas, Cavite	800.00
18. One Unit Overhead Projector			17th Floor SB Corp. office in Makati City	2,550.00
19. One unit Mitsubishi L300			Plate No. TBD-619, Type HSPUR W/ analoc, Motor No. 4D 6DU-4525, Chassis No.L039PYZ-03395 located in Cauayan, Isabela	45,000.00

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Description of the above properties, bidding rules and regulations and the prescribed bid forms are available at the 17th Floor, 139 Corporate Center, 139 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Contact Atty. Jessie Reotutar, Santiago C. Tuliao and Willie Silo at tel no. (02) 813-5721/(02) 751 1888.
2. Sealed bid forms together with the 10% bid bond will be received by SBGFC-ADC Secretariat from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on October 30, 2007. Other bids beyond the said time shall no longer be accepted.
3. Each bids proposal shall be accompanied by a Manager's Check issued in Metro Manila payable to the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation (SBGFC) in the amount equivalent to 10% of the bid. Please accomplish one (1) bid form for every property.
4. In case of CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS (defined as other bid submitted within the range of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an OPEN BIDDING in which all bidders whose bids within 85% of the highest bid may participate. The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P5,000.00.
5. Properties will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and the winning bidder shall take possession of the property without seeking assistance from SBGFC. Bidders are enjoyed to personally inspect/investigate/verify actual site and status of documents of ownership with the appropriate Register of Deeds before formally submitting their bids to ascertain their actual condition.
6. All sales shall be subject to confirmation by the SBGFC Credit Committee.
7. If for any reason the bidding date is declared as non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at same time and place abovementioned.

SBGFC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, ACCEPT SUCH BID AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COMPANY OR CALL OFF A BIDDING PRIOR TO ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE BIDS AND CALL FOR A NEW BID UNDER AMENDED RULES. THE DECISION OF SBGFC IS FINAL AND BINDING.

(SGD.) FE DOLORES GATUS
Chairman-ADC

(PDI--Oct. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Various Philippine Navy Projects

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the PN Bids and Awards Committee, intends to apply the sum as stated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Philippine Navy Project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Nomenclature/ Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time			Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Submission/ Opening of Eligibility Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	
Lot 1- Supply & Delivery of Labor and Construction Materials for the Rehabilitation of FSF Water Distribution System	P 8,347,222.16	November 7, 2007 (Wed)	November 15, 2007 (Thu)	November 27, 2007 (Tue)	P 3,000.00

2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the **Various Philippine Navy Projects**. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their **LOIs** on or before ***November 6, 2007*** at the Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Taguig City and secure the Eligibility Documents there from. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: ***November 7, 2007, 9:00 AM*** at the Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. The PN BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Requirements and Forms at PN BAC Secretariat, Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, upon the submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI), and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 300.00** ***(fee for the Eligibility Requirements and Forms)***. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee before ***November 7, 2007, 9:00 AM***.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Secretariat, Philippine Navy Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **0800H - 1700H** on **Monday** to **Friday**.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The Armed Forces of the Philippines will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all Eligible Bidders on ***November 15, 2007, 9:00 AM*** at the ***Office of the Philippine Navy Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.***
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **October 31, 2007, 9:00 AM**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount specified below.
   - Manager's Check equivalent to 1% of ABC or Surety Bond equivalent to 2.5% of ABC.

Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **November 27, 2007, 9:00 AM**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

8. Completion of the Works is required as indicated above of the Calendar Days.
9. The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee
BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Contact Person: CDR GLICERIO P VILLANUEVA PN
Cel Nr: 0917-8599-434 / 0918-2016-522
Tel Nr: 616-8218, 815-3420, 843-4416 & 815-8093 local 6341

(Sgd.) ADRIANO V MUNAR JR
CAPT PN (GSC)
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(PDI--October 28, 2007)

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Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--Oct. 28, 2007)

Sunday INQUIRER NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
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Page A17

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

60T 7BR6TC4C9 09178030658

BIG2STRY HAUS OK 4 OFIS 4BR/4TB/4CAR GRG.MAIDS & DRVRS QTRS, LAUNDRY AREA GARDEN, BIG TERRACE NEAR ANGELO KING CNTR AND ST. BENILDE - 09189142677

Nr. Ayala 2br 2tb @P15T/mo Call 0917-9160226

CONDO/TWNHSE

Columns Mkt 2BR2TB Mdsrm Prkg Brokers Welcome 8906331

Condo 4 Rent EASTWOOD 2+1BR • 0920-9096012

EAST ORTIGAS MANSION PASIG 2BR • 0906-2654917

GHILLS 1BR 73SQM 3810338

ORTIGAS CTR- MEGAPLAZA 3BR 2PKG SEMIFURN 29T+ ROXAS BLVD-BAYVIEW INTL 3BR SEMI-FURN W/PKG 29T+NEG 6330904 / 0 9 1 6 7 8 5 5 5 0 7

Penhurst 1BR 30T 7217736

STUDIO RES P6.8T/mo VV1 40sqm 0927-9118605 C5 / GVBowing / Tiendesitas

Townhouse gated cmpd Loyola Hts Ateneo area semifurn 3BR 3TB prking aircon heat malds qtr ref P40T 09178265900

APARTMENT

1BR nr P.Gil 5634007/5891978

2BIG BRMS GRGE 20min to ATENEO 15min to EASTWOOD P9Th/mo T6553617 Classy

3rd flr studio type 1BR 2TB w/ roof deck Cubao 9124570

EASTGEN AIRPORT APARTEL 4.5T/mo 750/day a/c cable 8544832-33

PROJ.4 2BR 1TB 2flr prkg veranda laundry sh20 9136242

VITO CRUZ ZOBEL ROXAS, 563-8011

FOR LEASE

HIGH-END BAZAAR SPACES FOR LEASE CALL 687-7009 OR 914-1058

RIVIERA GOLF SHARE 0917-8448833

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

600sqm 30TMO Neg 1BDGA & BUNG Bck Lto East Ave. QC T9427674/09202446490

Bic. 550m² Load Dk w/ Condo Live/Work 9155661250

WAREHOUSE FOR LEASE
AREA: 2,990 Sq. meters
LOCATION: C. RAYMUNDO ST. BARRIO CANIOGAN, PASIG CITY
PLS CALL M.S. CRUZ
TEL. # 631-67-14; 09178991001 09175340911

ROOM & BOARD

Nr UST, U-Belt 09174283404

LOAN & MORTGAGE

PERSONAL LOANS 524-3197

LOT FOR LEASE

1,900m² Lot @ South Coastal Rd. nr Tollgate 09184007454/ 4916042

23Hec w/ 200 Mango trees w/ freshwater creek @ Pililla, Rizal. 09184007454/4916042

LOT FOR RENT 3,335 SQM KM.19, EAST SERVICE ROAD CUPANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
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Greenbelt Makati
RFO Furnished & Fitted Brand New with Interior Design
1BR 36.5m² 4.2M
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CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

For Sale/Lease to Own Condo 103 152sqm, 2BR ,3T&B w/ 1Basement Parking Slot Fully Interior Decorated Semi Furn/Unfurnish Bella Villa, Merville Park Subd. P ' n q u e M M Contact Bobby Formoso 09159999218;7763460

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

02 HONDA CIVIC LXI CASA MAINTND 420K 09175880029

96 SENTRA 110T 0916-2438881

98CRV AT 398T Neg 09175081221

CARS

1990 NISSAN SKYLINE R32 GTST - RB20DET - CNVRTD Php 260,000 NEGI RUSH ONINS 0905-444-8880

2002 CIVIC VTI M/T P408T 1st owned CASA Tel 292-3121(office Hours)

2006 Camry 2.4V AT Gold P1.2M 6000 km old body Direct Byr 09189097601

93 NISSAN SAFARI EXECUTIVE Series RECINE Back Seat LikeNew 395T/4382394/09183444494

Late '03 Jaguar x-type platinum 1st owner low mileage 0927-9586836

Pajero Jr 320T 09178227788

RYKEROLL RENT-A-VAN
07 URVAN ESCAPADE
10 HOURS P1,800
WITH DRIVER
7878776 / 7964377
09213497170

'00 PAJERO FM 01 ACQRD BLACK• AT/NOTHING 2 FIX 09228501971/09209631971

OTHER CAR BRANDS

BERYLLE CARS
Araneta Ctr Cubao nr Ali Mall
Pajero Safari Trooper MU Friendy Granvia Regius Urvan Largo Estima RVR MPV Odyssey Suzuki etc 439-1117 : 09178215832
Finance Trade-In Slot P3T

BUSES/TRUCKS

ELF CANTER 4-6W 4391117

BOATS

COASTWISE TUGBOAT
4 RENT/SALE 250HP & 500 HP
5252751 / 7761361 / 8242943

LCT TYPE BARGE NON PROPELLED 1,400 DWT ENGR HILARIO 282-8158 0921-3579277

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

BRAND NEW VANS 3822579

VANS 9226702 9214535

CAR LOAN

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 6560140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% EASY CARLOAN 8997759

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7225647/48

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/out taking car 7262780

FOR LEASE

1. OFFICE SPACES
Salcedo Village, Makati
2. STORE SPACES/ WAREHOUSES
Molino Rd. Dasmariñas Cavite, Congressional Ave., Dasma Cavite, Alabang Zapote Rd. Las Piñas
3. CHEMICAL TANKS
Bauan, Batangas
ALL RENTAL – NEGOTIABLE
Call Tel. No. 892-26-81 to 96
ARIEL / DING / REXIE

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WE BUY USED OIL
4439483 09272605992

BILLIARDS

BLIARD TBLE 38T-UP 8014494

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT PIANOS: TERMS -T7213124

PETS

ALASKAN Malamute Pups 45T pure breed w/ PCCI paper 4545667; 09189235216

DALMATIAN M/F T-7261450

HUSKY PUPS 2MOS 9156630

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GoldCrest Bldg.
Glorietta-2, Makati
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0917-8473744
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Manila Pavilion Hotel

MISCELLANEOUS

Elect wheelchair 09178227788

ROTISSERIE F'DWARMER POS STAINLESS SINK COUNTER DC MARVEL COMICS 8520485 09173281715

ANNOUNCEMENT

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING ENROLL NOW
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Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Stockholders of Trusteeship, Inc. be held on the 19th day of November 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the office of the corporation at No. 3169 V. Mapa Extension, Sta. Mesa, Sampaloc, Manila, Philippines to take action on the Resolution of the Board of Directors for the Dissolution of Trusteeship, Inc. and its affairs wound up.
October 25 2007
Manila, Philippines
(Sgd.) Ma. Angela B. Trillana
Corporate Secretary
PDI--Oct. 28, Nov. 4 &11, 2007

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ-BRIONES PAWNSHOP
Auction-November 08, 2007
All unredeemed articles from June 1-30, 2007
354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
Dela Rosa Makati 10AM
VZamora-Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late RODOLFO S. SAN ANTONIO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc No. 349, Page No. 71, Book No. I, Series of 2007 before Notary Public Jose L. Magsanoc of Marikina City (PDI Oct. 28, Nov. 4 & 11, 2007)

Notice is hereby given to the public that the estate of the late FELIX D. MABUNAY has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs upon execution of the Declaration of Heirship and Renunciation of Hereditary Rights recorded as Doc.No. 288,Page No. 58,.Book No. XXXI,Series of 2007,under Notary Public Jayme A. Sy,Jr. of Bacolod City on August 22,2007;and also recorded as Document No. 07702,Seriesof 2007, before Atty.Leandro B. Lachica,Vice Consul,Foreign Services of the Philippines,Consulate General of the Philippines, New York,USA on September 19,2007 (PDI-Oct. 28,Nov. 4 & 11,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late Spouses Generoso del Rosario and Rufina Cacha del Rosario was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc 829 Page 166 Book X Series 2007 before Notary Public Atty Milagros Ramin-francia of Quezon City.
PDI - Oct. 14, 21 & 21, 2007

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
SAN LAZARO HOSPITAL
Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz
Manila
Telephone Nos.: 732-37-76 to 78; 732-31-06
Email Address: snlazaro@doh.gov.ph & mccl@info.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **San Lazaro Hospital** hereby invites sealed written bids from interested and eligible suppliers/manufacturer and retailers to participate in the bidding for the procurement and delivery of **Hospital Supplies and Materials, for the 1st semester, January - June 2008; Hospital Contractual Services and Hospital Office/Medical Equipment for CY 2008.** Funding sources are from the GOP Allotment for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses for Supplies and Materials, Revolving Funds from Drugs and Medicines and Hospital Retained Incomes.

Application forms for ELIGIBILITY shall be available upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Three Hundred Pesos (Php300.00)**, for Hospital Supplies and Materials and **Five Hundred Pesos (Php500.00)** for Hospital Contractual Services and Hospital Office/Medical Equipment from **October 22, 2007 up to the date before the submission and openig of the bids** 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the BAC Secretariat, Property & Supply Office, San Lazaro Hospital.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and supporting documents shall **not be later than the day before the scheduled date of submission and opening of bid per category.** Please bring original copies of all submitted documents for proper authentication.

Interested Bidders can obtain the **BID DOCUMENTS** to the BAC Secretariat, located at the Property & Supply Office, San Lazaro Hospital from **November 7, 2007 up to the date before the opening of the bids** by category upon submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) and upon payment of non-refundable fees as indicated per category. Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis at the Hospital Collection Unit:

CATEGORIES	APPROVED BUDGET COST (lumpsum)	CONTRACT PERIOD	AMOUNT
• Drugs/Medicine Supplies (REGULAR and REVOLVING	Php 29,000,000.00	Jan. - June, 2008	Php 5,000.00
• Medical Supplies	Php 3,000,000.00	Jan. - June, 2008	Php 1,000.00
• Radiology Supplies	Php 250,000.00	Jan. - June, 2008	Php 500.00
• Dietary Foodstuff Supplies	Php 3,500,000.00	Jan. - June, 2008	Php 1,000.00
• Janitorial Supplies	Php 100,000.00	Jan. - June, 2008	Php 500.00
• Maintenance Supplies	Php 500,000.00	Jan. - June, 2008	Php 500.00
• Linen/Laundry Supplies	Php 375,000.00	Jan. - June, 2008	Php 500.00
• Laboratory Supplies/Reagent	Php 7,500,000.00	Jan. - June, 2008	Php 2,500.00
• Laboratory Reagents w/ Machine tie-up	Php 5,500,000.00	Jan. - Dec., 2008	Php 2,500.00
• Medical Gases & Oxygen	Php 10,000,000.00	Jan. - Dec., 2008	Php 5,000.00
• Dental Supplies	Php 300,000.00	Jan. - Dec., 2008	Php 500.00
• Janitorial Service	Php 9,600,000.00	Jan. - Dec., 2008	Php 3,000.00
• Security Service	Php 4,300,000.00	Jan. - Dec., 2008	Php 2,000.00
• Hospital Office/Medical Equipment	Php 4,000,000.00	30 to 45 days per receipt of PO	Php 2,000.00
• Purified Drinking Water	Php 175,000.00	Jan. - Dec., 2008	Php 500.00

General PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held on November 9, 2007, 9:00 am at the SLH Amphitheater, San Lazaro Hospital, Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz, Manila unless announced otherwise.

BID QUOTATIONS must be submitted to the BAC Secretariat at the time/dates specified above, which said bids will be opened to the Public on:

CATEGORIES	OPENING	SCHEDULE
• Drugs/Medicine Supplies	9:01 am	November 26, 2007
• Laboratory Supplies & Reagents and	1:31 pm	-do-
• Laboratory Reagents w/ machine tie-up	1:31 pm	
• Medical Supplies/Med Gases & Oxygen	9:01 am	November 27, 2007
• Dietary Foodstuff Supplies/Radiology	1:31 pm	-do-
• Dental/Janitorial/Linen & Laundry Supplies	2:31 pm	-do-
• Maintenance Supplies	3:01 pm	-do-
• Janitorial/Security Services	9:01 am	November 28, 2007
• Hospital Office/Medical Equipment	1:31 pm	-do-
• Purified Drinking Water	3:01 pm	-do-

Each *BID* must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the lumpsum per category of the **Approved Budget Cost (ABC)** participated in any form as indicated in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS).

All abovecited activities shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

For further details, please contact the BAC Secretariat, at telephone no. 3099552 and Procurement Unit at no 3099517.

THE SLH-BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BID, TO ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS, AND REJECT ALL BIDS AT ANYTIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER/BIDDERS ON THE REASONS FOR DOING SO. SLH-BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY BIDS NOR DEEM IT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ARTURO B. CABANBAN, MD, MHA
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI – Oct. 21 & 28, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late AU YONG STAT has been the subject of an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication by his sole heir Tong Fong Bee as per Doc. No. 269 Page No. 54 Book No. VI Series of 2007 Notary Public Atty Nelson P. Pagaduan of Manila City.
PDI-Oct.21,28 & Nov.4, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late EDUARDO BOOC JUMAO-AS was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 164, Page No. 33, Book No. 14, Series of 2007 under Notary Public Atty. Joselito S. Fernandez. (Oct. 28,Nov.4&11,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CARLA REGINA CHUA CHIACO-ARANETA was extrajudicially partitioned by and among her heirs as per Doc. 253 Pg. 106 book LVIII Series of 2007 before Notary Public Renan R. Osero of Makati City (PDI-Oct.28,Nov.4&11, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ANTONINA A. BINSOL was extrajudicially settled to her sole heirs as per Doc No. 389; Page No. 79; Book No. IV, Series of 2007 of Notary Public Ramil Joselito B. Tamayo. (PDI- October 21, 28, November 4, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MINDA S. REGLOS was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. No. 289 Page No. 58 Book No. 13 Series of 2006 by Notary Public Atty. Anatalio P. Gadia of Lipa City (PDI-Oct. 7, 14 & 21, 200)

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CLEOFE SAILE was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc 688 Page75 BookXXXIII Series 2004 before Notary Public Edgar J. Baguio of Dipolog City
(PDI – Oct. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the lost of Riviera Golf Club Stock Cert No. 0180 w/ one Class C share of Capital Stock issued to TOA Corp. If no contest is received,new certificate will be issued. (PDI -- Oct. 21, 28 & Nov. 4, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the EPCI Stock Cert. No. 55918 issued to CATALINA C. JUSTO has been lost. If no contest received, new cert. will issued. (PDI-Oct.21,28&Nov.4,2007)

Notice is hereby given the lost EBC Stock Cert. 36527 with 400 shares issued REBECCA M. SANTIAGO. If no contest received new cert to be issued. (PDI-Oct. 14,21&28, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given to the public that the Original Stocks Certificates registered under the name of FELIX D. MABUNAY more particularly described as BPI Stock Certificate No. 177199 for 1,003 shares and Ayala Corporation Stock Certificate Nos. A34425 for 656 shares and A63269 for 1, 350 shares,have been inadvertently lost and could not be recovered.As such,an Affidavit of Loss was executed to the effect by Guinevere Rey Mabunay,wife and heir of the owner,and recorded as Doc. No. 289,Page No. 58,Book No. XXXI,Series of 2007 of the Notarial Register of Atty. Jayme A. Sy,Jr. of Bacolod City on August 22,2007
(PDI-Oct. 28&Nov. 4&11,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the Stock Cert 4547 40 shrs 18645 153 shrs; 50842 38 shrs; 713 10 shrs; 6201 2 shrs ; 95389 48 shrs; 48294 3 shrs; 121873 69 shrs; 145125 69 shrs; 63539 3 shrs; 178120 83 shrs; 81814 3 shrs; 203038 100 shrs; 98227 4 shrs; 228989 150 shrs; 115486 6 shrs; 246813 150 shrs ; 125305 6 shrs; 274255 187 shrs; under the name of AGRIPINO CABANAS are lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Oct. 21, 28, & Nov. 4, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the lost of Riviera Golf Club Stock Cert No. 0180 w/ one Class C share of Capital Stock issued to TOA Corp. If no contest is received,new certificate will be issued. (PDI -- Oct. 21, 28 & Nov. 4, 2007)

PERSONAL

Thank You Holy Spirit From Gemma P. Santos

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW CONSIGN Infant Kid Teen Adult wear09178830002

WANTED TO BUY

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

3 EXP. F-LIC. DENTIST ASAP PREF. NR CAINTA-ANTIPOLO AREA T-6356771 / 6360909

HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT - SEMI-FURNISHED
JUBILATION EAST EXECUTIVE VILLAGE, BIÑAN, LAGUNA (near Brent school)
Sale: 9.9Mphp. – Rent/year: 720,000 php neg.
- 2007 Fresh house - FA 200sqm / LA 340sqm
- Big open living room with mezzanine, office, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lanay, large balcony
- Semi-furnished. Bedrooms with air cons, TV & satellite, fridge, office desk... and more to be discussed
- Large windows with grid and screens - Well naturally ventilated
- Landscaped and fenced garden
- Well protected village with swimming pool, tennis and basketball court
- On going expansion of SLEX - 15 min to Alabang / 35 min to Makati
- Property value increasing in Laguna - interesting investment!

!! SPECIAL DISCOUNT if payment in USD or Euros !!
CONTACTS: TEL: 0919 5271014 (Tagalog) or TEL: 0920 9526347 (English/French)

FOR LEASE
ALONG MACAPAGAL BOULEVARD
BRAND NEW BUILDING
COMMERCIAL / OFFICE
3,000 sqm. lot area
6,000 sqm. total floor area
4-storey, with escalators & elevators
with ample parking space
LEASE THE WHOLE BUILDING OR PORTION OF THE TOTAL SPACE
CALL: JING FERNANDEZ
0917-8936105

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ACI, A Brokerage Co. need female Acctg Staff. Pls. apply @ Lot 3 Blk 3 Canaynay Rd BF Martinville, CAA Las Pinas Tel 8208476, 09283131280

Architectural graduate with or without experience call: 912-1442 & 913-5691

Cook 7, Yaya 4, H'girl 3,5 F.Driver Gardener 8510250

SMART COMPUTERS WITH COMPUTERS, apprenticeship program, Bagulo, free board, nutritious meals, allowance, a2@helpme@gmail.com

TELEMARKETER/SECRETARY 5355644/7191136/5340851

WANTED: LICENSED CIVIL ENGINEER OR LICENSED ARCHITECT M/F 22-30 Y.O. w/ or W/O Exp Willing to work In Alabang Telefax: Contact (02)-575-6280 489-9618 jolidegoma@yahoo.com

FEMALE

HOUSE MANAGER
(w/ exp. & can cook)
For Forbes Park Resident
30-45 y/o Female
09178348790 / 7505346
Malen / Lalaine

NEEDED SECRETARY
Fax CV 818-6065 or email at: dikbud_mnl@yahoo.com

MALE/FEMALE

20/25 good mktg skills pleasing personality
4079433 / 09185211110

Guitar workshop

THERE WILL BE A guitar workshop which will be held on Sunday, Nov. 4, 2-5 p.m. by renowned classical guitarist Prof. Ruben F. Reyes.

Prof. Ruben F. Reyes teaches Classical Guitar and is concurrently Coordinator for Guitar at the Conservatory of Music of the University of Santo Tomas.

He also holds a Master's Degree in Music, summa cum laude from the UST Graduate School.

For more information visit: http://www.dbcisas.com, email: musicschool@dbcisas.com, or contact Tel Nos. 671-2630/ 671-2632, Fax Nos. 671-2487 & Mobile No. 0917-880-ISAS.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Luz Borromeo Severino

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who comforted and condoled with us, offered Masses and Prayers, sent flowers, cards of sympathy and donations, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and who in countless ways helped us in our time of bereavement.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race.
I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7

LT. COL. RENERIO NIÑO BATALLA (PA)

of Agno, Pangasinan joined our Creator on his 41st birthday, October 23, 2007, while on a U.N. military observer mission in SUDAN, AFRICA.

His loving wife, **Imee**; children, **Carlos, Cristina, Caleb** and **Caillo**; his father, **Efren;** brothers & sisters **Rogelio, Rebecca** and **Romeo**; and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will arrive in Villamor Airbase on Monday, October 29, 2007 at 7:00 AM. Wake will be at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani.

Interment will be on November 5, 2007 after the 10:00AM Mass at Saint Michael Chapel, Philippine Army Headquarters, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

In Loving Memory of

Constancia M. Mascariñas

September 3, 1911 - October 28, 1979

While joys and sorrows are still remembered, there will always be a special place in the heart where love lives on.

Rem, Den,
Carlo Alfio, Jason Ryan,
Kay Constancia, Kathleen Dina

Message of Thanks
We, the family of the late

BETTY R. CERTEZA

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and in countless ways condoled with us in our hour of bereavement.

CLASSIFIEDS

TB LINC
LINKING INITIATIVES and NETWORKING to CONTROL TUBERCULOSIS

PBSP
Philippine Business for Social Progress

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Business for Social Progress, the largest corporate-led, non-profit social development foundation in the Philippines is inviting all interested suppliers to pre-qualify and bid for the supply of computer equipment and accessories (hardware/software) for the implementation of the TB LINC Project, to wit:

Equipment	Quantity
Laptop Computer (branded)	12
Desktop Computer (branded)	1
Mobile Printer	6
Flash Drive	13
SD Card	4
Switch Hub	1
Laptop Cable Locks	12
Laptop Backpack Bags	12
MS Office OEM software (licensed)	13
Norton Antivirus software (licensed)	13
In Design software (licensed)	1
Adobe Acrobat package (licensed)	4
SPSS software (licensed)	1

Interested vendors/suppliers may obtain a copy of the instructions to offerors, specifications and pre-qualification requirements at any time during office hours from the address below. Offers and pre-qualification requirements must be delivered to the TB LINC Office on or before November 12, 2007, 5:00 PM to:

Franco Joshua S. Calixto, Procurement and Grants Specialist
Suite 903 Ma. Natividad Bldg., 470 T.M. Kalaw Ave.
corner Cortada St., Ermita, Manila
Tel/Fax: +6325671434, Email: fscalixto@tblinc.org.ph

This is an invitation to bid only, and in no way obligates PBSP TBLINC to award any contract.

(PDI-October 28, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **ALFONSO M. SUCK** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with **NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE PHILIPPINES** effective August 30, 2007. Any transaction made by him in behalf of the company, thereafter, is not honored by the company.

(PDI – Oct. 28, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292
October 28, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/ employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	PHILIPPINE SANITARY FITTINGS, INC. FCIE, Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Mr. Saeki Go/Japanese	Technical Consultant-Casting Section
2.	BRENT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, MANILA Brgy. Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna	Ms. Katie Ida Wuori/ American	Teacher
3.	ALEJANDRO KOREAN FOOD PRODUCT, INC. Brgy. Ampid I, San Mateo, Rizal	Mr. Jungho Kim/Korean	Supervisor
4.	HANA MILLION, INC. CEPZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Gi Hyeon Park/ Korean	President
5.	NICHIVI PHILIPPINES CORPORATION CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Takayuki Nihira/ Japanese	Q.C. Manager
6.	ROHM ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC. PTC, Bo. Maduya, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Tomoyuki Takeda/ Japanese	LSI Quality Control Adviser
7.	PHIL-JH TEXTILE CORPORATION Highway 2000, Brgy. San Juan, Taytay, Rizal	Mr. Yong Pyo Kim/Korean	Cutting Manager
8.	CHAMPAN GARMENT CORPORATION Km. 23, Anabu I, Imus, Cavite	Mr. Mianxin Lin/Chinese	Special Machine Consultant
9.	CHAMPAN GARMENT CORPORATION Km. 23, Anabu I, Imus, Cavite	Mr. Qing Chen/Chinese	Cutting Consultant
10.	HAN JIN GARMENTS, INC. Brgy. Banay-banay, Cabuyao, Laguna	Mr. Yool Jae Lee/Korean	Marketing Manager
11.	HITACHI GLOBAL STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES CORP. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Chandramogan Anamirtham/Malaysian	Vice President
12.	MARIWASA SIAM CERAMICS, INC. Bo. San Antonio, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Chucheep Poonsri/Thai	Production Consultant
13.	MARIWASA SIAM CERAMICS, INC. Bo. San Antonio, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	Mr. Chaiyut Khemglad/Thai	Maintenance Consultant

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III**
Regional Director

(PDI - Oct. 28, 2007)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
Governor Pack Road, 2600 Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 442-3888

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines Baguio, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF CAC BUILDING
Location	UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES BAGUIO CAMPUS
Brief Description	Construction of a two-storey CAC Building
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 19,503,011.94
Contract Duration	240 calendar days

Prospective bidders (of at least Medium A category) should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR)

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Advertisement / Posting of IAEB	October 22-26, 2007
2.	Letter of Intent	October 29-November 7, 2007
3.	Receipt and Opening of Eligibility Requirements (Eligibility Requirements must be received not later than 8:30 AM at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration. Opening of Eligibility requirements at 9:00 AM at the Vice Chancellor's Conference Room) / Eligibility check for civil works / Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	November 9, 2007
4.	Issuance of Bid Documents / Preparation of Bids	November 12-18, 2007
5	Pre-bid Conference (9:00 am at the Vice Chancellor's Conference Room)	November 20, 2007
6	Receipt and Opening of Bids (Bids must be received not later than 8:30 AM at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration, Opening of bids at 9:00 AM at the Vice Chancellor's Conference Room)	December 3, 2007
7.	Bid Evaluation	December 4, 2007
8.	Post-qualification	December 5-8, 2007
9.	Notice of Award	December 10, 2007
10.	Notice to Proceed	December 17, 2007

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Supply & Property Management Office c/o Mr. Rogelio S. Movilla, Jr., upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI), and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) to the University of the Philippines Baguio Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the University of the Philippines Baguio Cashier.

The University of the Philippines Baguio assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids. The UP Baguio reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is deemed the most advantageous to the University

Approved by:

(Sgd.) TEOFINA A. RAPANUT
BAC Chair

(PDI–Oct. 21 & 28, 2007)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANT SERVICES)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SYSTEMS LOSS REDUCTION PROJECT
Energy and Mining Development Sector Unit
CONSULTING SERVICES
GEF Grant No. TF053360

Expression of Interest

The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Energy (DOE), has received financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), through the World Bank towards the cost of the Electric Cooperative Systems Loss Reduction Project (ECSLRP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services. The services include Technical Assistance on the Review and Assessment of Investment Management Contract Program for Electric Cooperatives. The Consultant shall provide a third party review of the Investment Management Contract (IMC) Program; be able to assist the DOE to come up with the appropriate decision on the future of IMC; and shall provide report which should be an independent review and assessment of the program based on the experiences of the pilot electric cooperatives (ECs) The deliverables are expected to be completed in two months.

It is essential that the Consultant is a highly qualified professional whose judgments and experiences will be able to provide an independent, intelligent and fair review/ assessment and realistic recommendation of the IMC program to improve the operations and management of the ECs operations and management. The Consultant must have at least a Bachelor's Degree in related field of study; with excellent actual experience in energy policy studies on Philippine power sector reforms; and should be independent from DOE, NEA and Consultants (individuals/groups) who have been engaged in the IMC Phase I.

The Department of Energy now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, examples of previous policy papers made, etc.).

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers published in January 1977 (revised in September 1977, January 1999, and May 2002).

Interested Consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 0800H to 1700H.

Expression of Interest must be received at the address below by November 9, 200[illegible], 1700H, Manila time.

MS. MELINDA L. OCAMPO
Undersecretary
Department of Energy
4th Floor, DOE Bldg., Energy Center
Merritt Road, Bonifacio Global City
Taguig City, Metro Manila
Philippines
Tel/Fax. (632)8402067
Tel/Fax (632)8402173
E-mail: mlo_phg@doe.gov.ph, iexconde@gmail.com
Web site: www.doe.gov.ph

(PDI--Oct. 28, 2007)

PAMPANGA I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
STO. DOMINGO, MEXICO, PAMPANGA
Tel. Nos. (045)966-0604 / 875-0552
Fax. No. (045) 966-0270
E-mail: pelco1_mexico72@yahoo.com

October 22, 2007

INVITATION TO BID

Interested parties are hereby invited for the supply and delivery of the materials to be used for the following:

SUPPLY OF 10/12.5MVA POWER TRANSFORMER
SUPPLY OF 69KV SF6 CIRCUIT BREAKER (PCB)

Bidders must submit the following requirements for pre-qualification: Company Profile, Latest ITR, Latest Audited Financial Statement, business or Mayor's permit DTI registration, SEC registration.(Original copies to be shown for authentication purpose).

Submission of Pre-qualification Documents - NOV. 5-7, 2007
Bid Documents are available on - NOV. 8-10, 2007
Date and Time of Pre-bid Conference - NOV. 12, 2007 at 2PM
OPENING OF BIDS - NOV. 16, 2007 at 2PM

Bid documents can be availed from 8:00AM to 5:00PM thru the BAC Chairman or its members by paying the corresponding fee at PELCO I main office, Sto. Domingo Mexico, Pampanga. Accredited suppliers previously pre-qualified still need to update their files (if necessary) with PELCO I

Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security (Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check or Surety Bond) of at least 2.5% of the total bid amount.

PELCO I reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids including application to pre-qualify without stating any reason. For any inquiry, please contact the members of the BAC at telephone numbers stated above.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ROY M. DE LEON
BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. LOLIANO E. ALLAS
General Manager

(PDI – Oct 28 & 31, 2007)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2007

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Philippines to host this year's 3rd Junior Delphic Games

THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE THE FOCUS OF the international community as it play host to the 3rd Junior Delphic Games on Nov. 10-15 at the summer capital of the Philippines, Baguio City.

The City Government of Baguio, in cooperation with the National Delphic Council, Philippines (NDCP) will host this year's Junior Delphic Games - an offshoot to the International Delphic Games held every four years in various countries. It runs parallel to the Olympics Games, the latter being concentrated on athletics, while the former deals with arts and culture.

According to professor Divina A. Bautista, NDCP's founding president, the event, which originated and started in T'bilisi, Georgia in April, 1997, has since dedicated to be part of the humanitarian and educational peacemaking process. It has provided countless examples of increased intercultural understanding and a "bridge" to vitally important and mutually beneficial relationship - one of the keystones of a peaceful global society.

"It will be a convergence of around 27 member-countries to compete in various categories, bringing the best traditions of their artistic and cultural heritage. The event is designed to strengthen cultural roots and identity; preserve Cultural Heritage through practical creative work; and for the participants to express themselves in a contemporary artistic way and experience how to present the old and the new," professor Bautista further explained.

Baguio City Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr said that this event will definitely promote Baguio City as one of the eco-cultural destinations in the world.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the Department of Tourism through Cordillera Administrative Regional Director Purificacion Suanding-Molintas; and the National Commission on Cultural Arts through Chairman Ambeth Ocampo lauded the NDCP and the City Government of Baguio for this opportune time to showcase the country's cultural diversity and wealth of talents which are at par with the world's best.

Inquirer, Unilab newsboy medical mission

VOLUNTEERS from Unilab are giving away free medicines to the newsvendors who attend its 7th leg of Inquirer Medical Mission Aug. 10 at Monumento area. Inquirer and Unilab served 180 newsboys and their families in this mission.

LAST Aug. 25, the Inquirer concluded its 8th leg of newsboy medical mission catering to 160 newsboys from Coastal area. The medical mission is co-sponsored by Unilab and a team of volunteer nurses and doctors.

A TOTAL of 180 newsboys and their families were given free medicines on the 9th newsboy medical mission of Inquirer and Unilab at Cubao area. This public service is launched to give thanks to our partners in selling newspaper, the newsboys.

A PROMISING PARTNERSHIP TO PROGRESS

The Filipino-Chinese Bakery Association Inc (FCBAI) represented by its president James L. Chua and the Bacolod Negros Occidental Bakery Association (Bacnoba) represented by Ma. Soledad C. Chua signed a memorandum of agreement last July 21 in Bacolod. This event signifies a commitment for both groups to support and promote development, programs and projects geared toward promoting the bakery industry. Shown during the signing (standing from left are): Rosemary Chua, Benito Ong, Antonio Lim Kit; (seated are) Marcos Ong Jr, Henry Ah, FCBAI president James L. Chua and Bacnoba president Soledad C. Chua. Looking on are proud members of the Bacnoba.

KENNY ROGERS ROASTERS OPENS IN TRINOMA MALL

Kenny Rogers Roasters celebrated the addition of the newest member to its growing family with the launching of its 36th branch at Trinoma Mall in Quezon City recently. Located at the ground level (Level M1), Kenny Rogers Trinoma features a fresh look - from the façade to the restaurant's interior. Kenny Rogers-Trinoma is open Mondays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Delivery services are available at selected branches (delivery hotline at 533-8888). The opening of Kenny Rogers Trinoma Mall was led by Rosalina Siy, Roasters Phils' chair (front row, 3rd from right) and Bernardine Siy, Roasters Phils' president (front row, 4th from right). They were joined by the officers and staff of the operations and marketing departments.

FDC submits prequalification requirements for PNOC-EDC bidding

INDUSTRY LEADER FILINVEST Development Corp (FDC), the holding company of the Filinvest group and the Gotianun family, recently submitted requirements to prequalify for the bidding for the 60 percent equity interest in Philippine National Oil Company-Energy Development Corpn (PNOC-EDC).

"FDC is looking into the investment potential offered by this bidding to provide further value to our stockholders. We also see it as a unique opportunity to enter the renewable energy growth sector," explained FDC president Josephine Gotianun-Yap.

The Filinvest Group boasts of net assets of P107 billion and total stockholders' equity of P58 billion as of June 30, 2007. The Group earned a net income of almost P2 billion for the six-month period ended June 30, 2007.

The FDC board of directors in its meeting today further authorized the company's management to evaluate all aspects of the bidding, including whether or not to participate in the bidding proper.

The PNOC-EDC Privatization Committee is expected to announce the prequalified bidders on Oct. 10.

FDC, the holding company of the Gotianun group, owns Filinvest Land Inc (FLI), Filinvest Alabang, Inc (FAI) and East West Banking Corp (EWBC). Recently, FDC obtained 100 percent control over Pacific Sugar Holdings Corp (PSHC), which owns and manages two sugar mills with a combined milling capacity of 9,000 tons per day.

FLI is a market leader in mass housing development in the Philippines with over 40 years of expertise in real estate development. It has a strong position in retail as well as office building rental businesses with its exposures in the high growth BPO business in Northgate Cyberzone in Alabang and PBCom Tower in Makati, and the strong consumer market via its ownership of the 200,000 square meter Festival Supermall in Alabang.

FAI is the developer of the 244-hectare master-planned satellite Commercial Business District, the Filinvest Corporate City (FCC). FCC is an integrated development that mixes office, retail, residential condominium and leisure components in a complementary manner. FCC provides a balance of recurring rental income from office and retail space as well as residential sales income.

EWBC is one of the fast-growing commercial banks in the country with nationwide presence and a wide range of services backed up by cutting-edge banking technologies.

In addition to its development projects through FLI and FAI, FDC is fast tracking development in Seascapes Resort Town, a 12-hectare residential resort community in Mactan Island, Cebu that offers a 2.5 hectare beach club, fully furnished casitas, villas, condos and premium lots. FDC is also developing a residential condominium in Fort Bonifacio.

ProductFiles

Duo Care provides better care

STUDIES REVEAL THAT 3 OUT OF 4 people living with diabetes also have hypertension. Aware that such conditions exist, GenExel-Sein created the Duo-Care Combined Blood Glucose and Wrist Blood Pressure Monitor which is now available through FMEI Diamonde Solutions (hotline 414-7775) to provide a better solution for those living with diabetes and hypertension, including the diabetic patient, the prediabetic/prehypertensive patient, or anyone concerned with routine health monitoring. Through the incorporation of state-of-the-art Fast Tracking Temperature (FTT) technology, Step Deflation, and Advanced Oscillometric Algorithm (AOA) technology, Duo-Care incorporates two vital disease management needs into one wrist cuff monitor and eliminates the inconvenience and expense of two separate devices.

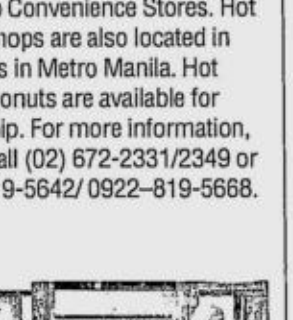
Hot Loops trick and treats for Halloween

TRENDY DONUT BRAND HOT Loops celebrates the season of spooks with a special collection of devilishly delightful donuts that even ghoulies and ghosties can't resist. It's all treats, no tricks, with Hot Loops' cool and creepy Halloween creations, which are available in Hot Loops outlets from Oct. 12 to Nov. 2. There's Bombie Bat, a chocolate-filled, bat-shaped donut deliciously wrapped in rich chocolate frost. Moby Mummy is another choco-filled donut with white frost and white chocolate stripes, reminiscent of one of the more popular Halloween creatures. The seasonal Hot Loops offering also includes Witzy Hat, a triangle-shaped choco-filled purple-frosted donut that resembles a wizard's magical hat; and Pumpy Pumpkin, an irresistible combination of orange glaze and chocolate filling fashioned in the traditional Halloween icon. For a cauldron of fun, delectable goodies this Halloween, and even the whole year through, check out Hot Loops outlets in selected Robinsons Supermarkets and Robinsons Malls, as well as all Ministop Convenience Stores. Hot Loops shops are also located in key areas in Metro Manila. Hot Loops Donuts are available for dealership. For more information, please call (02) 672-2331/2349 or 0922-819-5642/ 0922–819-5668.

Easy cooking with Sunnex

SUNNEX, THE MOST TRUSTED brand in Filipino cookware, restores the lost glory of the most useful and ingenious cooking tool of the century. Made from the highest quality of the most durable materials, the stainless steel Sunnex Zinnia Pressure Cooker is safe and easy to use. Its upper and lower phenolic handles avoids unnecessary hand burning, while the lower sub-handle gives you the grip and support you need when transferring to a different cooking location. Its safety pressure release and pressure limiting valve gives security, and reduces unintentional cooking disasters by automatically releasing pressure should it build too high. The Sunnex Zinnia pressure cooker has a locking air-tight lid function and a sealing ring that traps in steam and heat, to allow pressure to build. A nifty devise, the safety lock provides a secure way to open it with just a push of the button. As a precaution, it is still advisable to keep a good distance while cooking, and avoid touching the cooker's metal surface. Sunnex is available in all major department stores nationwide.

Treats for the senses



IF YOU CHANCED UPON SMELLING THE fascinating aroma of the Western breeze out of nowhere, don't think you're on the other side of the world 'coz you're definitely not! Chances are you've been enchanted by the aromatherapy products from the pristine corner of the south west of Western Australia or captivated by the alluring scents of premium branded perfumes from fashionable France. These are no non-sense notions as Moon Haven and Parisvally are currently fast becoming popular personal care brands on the local scene - thanks largely to Ananya Fragrances, a company that imports and distributes premium European and Australian perfumes, aromatherapy and skin care products all over Asia. "Moon Haven and Parisvally are two of the many high-end global brands that we brought into the country and have become very popular here since the inception of our company a year ago," said Sunil Kapahi, general manager of Ananya Fragrances. "They have become the living proofs of our commitment to give our consumers top quality products using the best natural and organic ingredients at affordable prices." They are all available at fine stores like Watsons, Rustans, Landmark, Shopwise, and other leading department stores nationwide. For further inquiries contact Sunil Kapahi at sunil@ananyafragrances.com

FREE BEACH GETAWAY WITH PHRS

Nina Lim was the lucky winner in PHRS' last 'Free Beach Getaway Book & Buy Promo'. The awarding was made by Lilibeth Marquez-Rosenberger, general manager (right). Lim won a free 2 night stay for two at La Carmela de Boracay, one of the most popular resorts in Boracay today. The promo period was from June 15 to Aug. 31, and drawing was last Sept. 3 at PHRS sales office with the presence of DTI Representative. To enjoy more of PHRS hotel discounts and promos, please call 812-PHRS (7477), text to 0928-9843664 or visit www.philippinehotelreservations.com.

TIGERS SPEAK HEALTH

The Coca-Cola Tigers Champions Basketball Clinic continued its tour of different schools in Metro Manila with two more clinics in Don Bosco Makati and Southridge in Alabang. This series of basketball clinics by Coca-Cola is being organized in collaboration with Coach E Basketball School, headed by founder coach Eric Altamirano. It aims to teach the participants not only basic skills in basketball but the values of living a healthy and active lifestyle or HAL as well. These values include eating a balanced diet, regular physical activity and proper hydration. Assisting the kids with their drills during the clinic were the PBA's Coca-Cola Tigers Kenneth Duremdes, Alex Cabagnot, Gerard Francisco, RJ Rizada and the two newest members of the Coke Tigers team, Mark Telan and Ronjay Buenafe.

DÖHLE HAUS TO RISE IN MAKATI

The Döhle Group, one of the largest shipping companies in Europe, is establishing its own purpose-built offices in the Philippines. Located at the strategic location of Makati City, the company is constructing a ten-storey state-of-the-art building to house its ship management and crewing operations in the country. With continued growth in the international shipping market, Döhle sets its sights in recruiting even more qualified Filipino seafarers to serve onboard its expanding fleet of commercial vessels. The 'Döhle Haus' building, which will be constructed at the corner of Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. (formerly Buendia) and Bautista St., will serve as the Manila offices for the company's ship management arm and its crewing representative. Döhle has previously rented offices in another part of Makati City. The initial phase of construction kicked-off with groundbreaking ceremonies last Sept. 27. The simple rites were attended by Döhle executives led by Silvia Leupold, owner's representative, Capt. Bethoven Saguid, VP and general manager of Döhle Shipmanagement Phils Corp, and Capt. Manolo Gacutan, president of Döhle-Philman Manning Agency Inc.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO
CALAPAN CITY
SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPT FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE 10th REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF ORIENTAL MINDORO HELD AT THE SANGGUNIANG SESSION HALL, PROVINCIAL CAPITOL COMPLEX, CALAPAN CITY, ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2007,

RESOLUTION NO. 197-2007

RESOLUTION APPROVING MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 06-03 ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENTAL USER'S FEE SYSTEM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PUERTO GALERA, ORIENTAL MINDORO"

On the motion of Hon. Abraham R. Abas, jointly seconded by Hon. Ramil O. Dimapilis and Hon. Humerlito A. Dolor, by a vote of eleven (11) in favor and one (1) against, be it;

RESOLVED, to approve, as it is hereby approving Municipal Ordinance No. 06-03 entitled, "An ordinance establishing an Environmental User's Fee System in the Municipality of Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro".

RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this resolution be furnished the Municipal Mayor and the Sangguniang Bayan thru its Secretary to the Sanggunian, both of the Municipality of Puerto Galera, this province, for their information and guidance,

APPROVED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

DIWATA H. FETIZANAN
Secretary to the
Sangguniang Panlalawigan

ATTESTED:

HON. MARIA ESTELA FELIPA M. ACERON
Vice Governor
Presiding Officer

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Onental Mindoro
Municipality of Puerto Galera
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF PUERTO GALERA, ORIENTAL MINDORO HELD ON JANUARY 24, 2007 AT THE SANGGUNIAN SESSION HALL.

PRESENT:

Hon. Juan S. Ascan, Jr. - - - - Municipal Vice-Mayor/ Presiding Officer
Hon. Rafael C. Cataquis - - - - Municipal Councilor
Hon. Florendo P. Candava - - - Municipal Councilor
Hon. Robertito C. Macatangay - - Municipal Councilor
Hon. Joseph L. Andal - - - - - - Municipal Councilor
Hon. Daniel T. Enriquez - - - - Municipal Councilor
Hon. Isidro C. Bunquin - - - - - Municipal Councilor
Hon. Luzminda C. Justiniano - - Municipal Councilor
Hon. Gabriel D. Ilagan - - - - - Municipal Councilor
Hon. Edwin C. Suzara - - - - - Ex-Officio Councilor (LIGA)
Hon. Christine M. Manongsong - Ex-Officio Councilor (SK)

ABSENT:
NONE

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MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 06-03

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENTAL USERS' FEE SYSTEM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PUERTO GALERA, MINDORO ORIENTAL

WHEREAS, Section 5, Article X of the 1987 Constitution provides that "(e)ach local government unit shall have the power to create its own sources of revenues and to levy taxes, fees and charges subject to such guidelines and limitations as the Congress may provide, consistent with the basic policy of local autonomy. Such taxes, fees and charges shall accrue exclusively to local governments";

WHEREAS, Section 16 Art. II of the Constitution likewise provides that: "the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, Puerto Galera is a premier tourist destination and one of the best dive sites in the world owing to its unique and rich biodiversity;

WHEREAS, Puerto Galera is a coastal municipality of a great cultural significance, a center of rich diversity of exquisite forest, fishery and marine resources, and one of the world's most important diving havens;

WHEREAS, the growing coastal population, as well as the burgeoning tourism and other economic activities in Puerto Galera have intensified the risks of environmental degradation, destruction of habitats and deterioration of water quality;

WHEREAS, the Republic Act 9003, otherwise known as the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, Republic Act 9275, otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, Republic Act 8550, otherwise known as Fisheries Code, and other relevant natural resources laws stress the vital role of the Local Governments in addressing the pressing environmental problems, such as solid waste and wastewater, and sustainably managing their respective forestry, fishery and other natural resources;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order No. 533 of 2006, Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) is recognized as an effective approach to sustainable coastal and marine development with demonstrated benefits in enhancing economic growth, ecosystem protection, promotion of social equity, and the quality of life of the people and has been adopted as the national management policy framework;

WHEREAS, Section 16, Chapter 2, Title One, Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991 provides that "(e)very local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare xxxx";

WHEREAS, Section 186, Chapter 5, Title One, Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991 provides that "(l) local government units may exercise the power to levy taxes, fees or charges on any base or subject not otherwise specifically enumerated herein or taxed under the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended, or other applicable laws: Provided, That the taxes, fees, or charges shall not be unjust, excessive, oppressive, confiscatory or contrary to declared national policy: Provided, further, That the ordinance levying such taxes, fees or charges shall not be enacted without any prior public hearing conducted for the purpose";

WHEREAS, the drive to develop and implement sustainable tourism in the area is a shared-priority concern and program of the municipal government of Puerto Galera, the provincial government of Oriental Mindoro and stakeholders;

On motion of Councilor Rafael C. Cataquis and Councilor Daniel T. Enriquez

Be it enacted by the Municipal Council of Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro in session assembled, that:

SECTION 1. Title. This ordinance shall also be known as the **"Puerto Galera Environmental Users' Fee System Ordinance."**

SECTION 2. Declaration of Principles and Policies. It is hereby declared the policy of the Municipal Government:

(a) To promote conserve and ensure sustainable and equitable utilization of its coastal areas and aquatic resources in conformity with the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 and other relevant environmental laws;

(b) To uphold and promote the cultural heritage and integrity of indigenous people;

(c) To ensure for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Puerto Galera, the judicious and wise utilization, protection, conservation and management on a sustainable basis of its natural resources with the necessity of maintaining a sound ecological balance, protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment;

(d) To enhance, promote and sustain tourism activities in the municipality of Puerto Galera through the conservation and protection of various tourist destinations;

(e) To establish additional sources of funding which shall be applied to finance conservation, protection and management of the coastal and aquatic resources and seascape of the municipality of Puerto Galera;

(f) To adopt the integrated coastal management as a framework for the sustainable and equitable management and development of the people's quality of life;

(g) To adopt preventive or anticipatory action in the face of scientific uncertainties to avert possible and sometimes irreversible agents and users;

(h) To share responsibility for environmental protection, remediation, restoration and development by allocating costs to responsible agents and users;

(i) To implement sustainable tourism development plans and projects aimed at promoting and nurturing the cultural and ecological values of Puerto Galera and promoting it as a safe and tourist-friendly destination;

(j) To generate funds by identifying additional sources of revenues to finance the implementation of environmental and tourism plans and projects;

(k) To establish and implement partnerships and linkages among the local government, DENR, DOT and other concerned national government agencies, non-governmental organizations, people's organizations, indigenous people, fisherfolks, and other stakeholders.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall mean as follows:

(a) **Authorized and designated collectors** – Any person natural or juridical who applied and qualified as collectors and has a an existing license issued by the LCE to collect the environmental fee;

(b) **Bantay Dagat** refers to a volunteer group of community members residing inside or within the vicinity of the coastal area, recognized and deputized by the municipal government of Puerto Galera, whose task is to monitor, prevent or police the area against all sorts of illegal activities committed by any natural or juridical person;

(c) **Coastal area** refers to a band of dry land and adjacent ocean space (water and submerged land) in which terrestrial processes and uses directly affect oceanic processes and uses, and vice versa; its geographic extent may include areas within a landmark limit of one (1) kilometer from the shoreline at high tide to include mangrove swamps, brackish water ponds, nipa swamps, estuarine rivers, sandy beaches and other areas within a seaward limit of 200 meters isobath to include coral reefs, algal flats, seagrass beds and other soft-bottom areas. (Section 4 (9), Fisheries Code of 1998);

(d) **Environmental Users Fee (EUF)** - refers to charges imposed on any person who visits/ enters the municipality of Puerto Galera and not being a resident thereof, for the purpose of enjoying, and/or experiencing the natural wonders of the various tourist destinations and the services provided by the natural environment or habitat within Puerto Galera. Such fees shall be intended solely for purposes provided in this Ordinance;

(e) **Marine biodiversity** refers to the variability among living organisms in marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems;

(f) **Municipal Waters** – refers to include not only streams, lakes, inland bodies of water and tidal waters within the municipality which are not the subject of private ownership and not included within the national parks, brackish water, fishponds leased by the government, and national fishery reserves, refuge and sanctuaries but also marine waters included between two lines drawn perpendicular to the general coastline from points where the boundary lines of the municipality touch the sea at low tide and a third line parallel with the general coastline including offshore islands and 15 kilometers from such coastline. Where two municipalities are so situated on opposite shores such that there is less than thirty (30) kilometers of marine waters between them, the third line shall be a line equidistant from the opposite shores of the respective municipalities (RA 8550 or Fisheries Code of 1998);

(g) **Resident** – any natural person who possesses any of the following qualifications:
1. Residing permanently in Puerto Galera;
2. Residing permanently in Puerto Galera but stays outside of Puerto Galera occasionally or most of the time;
3. Born in Puerto Galera but has established residence somewhere;
4. Exercises his or her right to vote in Puerto Galera;
5. Those who owns real property in Puerto Galera and their immediate family. Immediate family shall mean those relatives within the first degree of consanguinity.

(h) **Tourist/Guest/traveler**– refers to any natural person, not being a resident of Puerto Galera who enters the municipality through any landing sites or other point of entry for the purpose of visiting, enjoying, viewing and/or experiencing its tourist destination and other eco-tourism spots, whether natural or man-made, although for a momentary period only.

(i) **Coastal Resource Management Board (CRMB)** – is a board created by virtue of Municipal Ordinance No. 04-14 composed of the following; a) the Municipal Mayor or his/her duly authorized representative as Chairperson; b) the Chairperson of the Committee on Tourism of the Sanggunian as Vice-Chairperson, and c) the Chairperson of the Committee on environmental Protection of the Sanggunian; d) the Municipal Planning and Development Officer, e) the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (MFARMC) Chairman; f) one (1) non-governmental organization (NGO) representative; g) one (1) representative from the dive resort owners. h) one (1) representative from non-dive resort owners; i) one (1) representative from operators/boatmen association; j) one representative from academic/scientific community; k) one (1) representative from the dive professionals; and l) one (1) representative from an accredited club or organization as members.

(j) **Collection agent** - any person natural or juridical who qualified as collector and has an existing appointment issued by the Municipal Mayor to collect the environmental fee.

(k) **Trust Fund** - a special account fund established for public purposes by, with, and through the local government as provided in this Ordinance that forms the trust, sets out its legal terms and uses, and assigns respective rights, roles and responsibilities to different parties.

SECTION 4. Establishment, scope and application of the EUF System.
It is hereby established an Environmental Users Fee System, which effectively allocates responsibility for environmental management, development, protection and remediation by charging a certain amount for the use and/or enjoyment of Puerto Galera's environment and natural resources.

SECTION 5. Scope and Coverage.
The EUF System shall be enforced within the jurisdiction of the municipality of Puerto Galera including its municipal waters and all other natural resources.

SECTION 6. EUF Collection.
The collection of the EUF shall be in accordance with the following:

6.1 Environmental Users Fee. An environmental fee in the amount of Fifty Pesos (Php50.00) shall be collected by its designated and authorized collectors from all tourists, travelers and guests upon entering the municipality of Puerto Galera or any of the landing sites or entry points going to any of the barangays of Puerto Galera. The environmental fee shall be good only for his or her entire stay in Puerto Galera until his or her exit/departure from any of the barangays of Puerto Galera. All funds collected shall form part of the income of the municipality but shall be deposited in a Trust Fund specifically earmarked for the purposes provided herein.

6.2. Identification System. A mechanism for determining that an individual is a bona fide resident, tourist, and guest/traveler or exempted from the EUF payment shall be established.

6.3. Collection Sites. EUF shall be collected at identified collection sites set up at entry points for all travelers/tourists.

6.4. Collecting Agents. The Municipal Treasurer shall be the principal officer responsible for collecting the EUF. To assist him in the collection, the Municipal Mayor may appoint collecting agents.

6.5. Review of EUF system. The Sangguniang Bayan shall periodically review the EUF system and shall be guided by a study and technical information in order to rationalize the rate of fee to be collected and after due consultation with all the stakeholders.

6.6 Trust Fund. A trust fund shall be established as a special account to receive EUF collection and to finance approved projects or activities, provided, 10% of the net EUF collection shall be deposited in an endowment fund. Proceeds to the endowment fund can be used only for emergency relief actions, such as natural hazards.

6.7 Five percent (5%) of the net EUF collection shall form part of the General fund of the Municipal Government of Puerto Galera.

6.8 Check and Balance. The EUF funds shall be disbursed by the Municipal Treasurer and undergo regular monitoring as well as auditing procedures, including audit by the Commission on Audit.

SECTION 7. Administration and Management of the Environmental Fee. The Municipal Mayor shall administer and manage all the collection, disbursement and allocation of the funds collected based on the purposes identified in this Ordinance. All fees collected shall be deposited in a separate account and shall be used for the purposes provided under Section 8 hereof. An annual audit shall be undertaken by Commission on Audit of all funds collected from the authorized and designated collectors to ensure efficiency and transparency.

7.1 The Coastal Resources Management Board shall perform a recommendatory and oversight function in the management and use of the funds, specifically in reviewing and recommending to the Sangguniang Bayan for approval such priority activities and fund appropriation.

No fund from the Environmental User's Fee collection shall be disbursed without resolution passed by the Board authorizing disbursement of the same.

SECTION 8. Use of the Environmental Fund. Except for the endowment fund, established under Section 6.6, the allocation for the General Fund established under Section 6.7 and barangay share under Section 9, no funds generated from the collection of the environmental fund or any portion thereof, shall be used directly or indirectly for purposes, other than the following:

8.1 To fund projects such as research, trainings, IEC, sanitation treatment system and or promotion or use of appropriate and/or indigenous technology among others that will ensure the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the natural environment subject to such rules and regulations issued by the LCE upon recommendation of CRMB;

8.2 To rehabilitate any ecosystem or part thereof subject to the technical advise and study of the appropriate government agency and/or academic institutions or research entities competent to undertake such assessment;

8.3 To develop existing natural environment which are considered tourist attraction in order to prevent any actual or potential damage thereon brought about by human activities and/or exposure to the action/impact of natural elements/phenomenon;

8.4 To improve the system of management and collection of the environmental fund and such other incidental expenses to achieve the same;

8.5 To conserve and protect all natural environment such as the marine and upland biodiversity, lakes and bodies of water, caves, mountains and other terrestrial ecosystem whether for the aesthetic enjoyment of the general public or for the livelihood of fisher folk, indigenous people and other stakeholders;

8.6 To ensure effective enforcement of all laws and ordinances pertaining to environmental protection, management and conservation and tourist protection being conducted by the local PNP, Bantay Dagat and other similar volunteer groups subject to the limitations provided by law and this Ordinance;

8.7 To support, promote or undertake any or activities/endeavors similar to the foregoing in order to achieve the purposes of this Ordinance;

SECTION 9. Incentive Scheme for Barangays.
Twenty percent (20%) of the net collection from the environmental fee system shall be allotted to all the barangays of the municipality. The CRMB shall recommend the appropriate sharing scheme for all the barangays.

Disbursement of the same shall be for environmental purposes in line with the CRM Plan.

SECTION 10. Exemption.
The following shall be exempted from the payment of the environmental fund:

10.1 All residents of Puerto Galera shall be exempt from the payment of the environmental fee, provided he or she shows proof of such residency. Proof of residency includes passport, community tax certificate, voter's ID

10.2 All Filipino senior citizens shall have a 20% discount in the payment of the environmental fee.

10.3. Filipino children 12 years old and below or persons with disability

10.4 Government officials on official business, all residents of Oriental Mindoro upon proper proof, those conducting regular business, visiting relatives, and other such persons who do not fall as traveler or tourist.

SECTION 11. Penalties.
The following acts shall be prohibited for the purpose of this Ordinance:

11.1. Non payment of the environmental fee shall be punishable by paying double the amount of the environmental fee without prejudice to the filing of appropriate criminal case;

11.2 Misrepresentation of one's identity, residency and the like in order to avoid payment of environmental fee shall be punishable by paying the environmental fee double the amount and rendering community service for one (1) day without prejudice to the filing of appropriate criminal case;

11.3. Non-issuance of tickets by the designated and authorized collectors shall be punishable by a fine of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00) without prejudice to the cancellation of the license to collect environmental fee and filing of appropriate criminal case;

11.4. Unauthorized collection of environmental fee by designated and authorized collectors shall be punishable by a fine of Two thousand five hundred pesos (Php2,500.00) without prejudice to the cancellation of the license to collect and filing of appropriate criminal case;

11.5 Collection of environmental fee by a person not duly authorized by the LCE shall be punishable by imprisonment upon the discretion of court of competent jurisdiction.

SECTION 12. Appropriation.
An initial appropriation of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 500,000.00) shall be earmarked for the purpose of funding initial activities for setting up the necessary institutional mechanisms and processes that will ensure effective implementation of this ordinance.

SECTION 13. Implementing Rules and Regulation.
The CRMB shall draft the Implementing Rules and Regulation of this Ordinance subject to the approval of the Local Chief Executive.

SECTION 14. Mandatory Review.
The Sangguniang Bayan shall undertake a mandatory review of the implementation of this Ordinance one (1) year after its effectivity in coordination with the CRMB, MFARMC and other stakeholders, who shall make recommendations on any action regarding its implementation.

SECTION 15. Separability Clause.
If any part or provision of this ordinance shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 16. Effectivity.
This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

In-favor	- -	Nine (9)
Not in-favor	- -	One (1)
Abstain	- -	None

Date Enacted: JANUARY 24, 2007

****

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

VIRLEO M. PERSIA
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

ATTESTED:

JUAN S. ASCAN, JR.
Municipal Vice-Mayor/
Presiding Officer

APPROVED.

ARISTEO E. ATIENZA
Municipal Mayor

Municipal Ordinance No. 06-03 (EUF)

"Our environment is our Social Security System. Help build a secure future for our children."

HUBBERT CHRISTOPHER A. DOLOR, M.D., MPA.
Municipal Mayor

USAID WWF for a living planet

(PDI--Oct. 28, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

EN BANC

IN THE MATTER OF ACCREDITATION AS CITIZEN'S ARM OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS IN THE PROVINCES OF MAGUINDANAO, SHARIFF KABUNSUAN, LANAO DEL SUR, BASILAN, SULU AND TAWI-TAWI FOR BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 29, 2007 IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO AND CITIES OF MARAWI, COTOBATO, LAMITAN AND ISABELA

SPP Case No. 07-027

CITIZEN COALITION FOR ARMM ELECTORAL REFORMS, INC. (Citizens CARE),

Petitioner. Promulgated : Oct. 26, 2007

x----------x

RENE V. SARMIENTO, Commissioner

RESOLUTION

For resolution is a petition[1] filed by CITIZENS COALITION FOR ARMM ELECTORAL REFORMS, INC. (Citizens CARE for brevity) on October 9, 2007 seeking for accreditation as citizen's arm of the Commission in connection with the October 29, 2007 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections, specifically for the six (6) provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and cities of Cotobato and Isabela.

The pertinent portion of the instant petition provides:

> *"Petitioner is coalition of non governmental organizations and peoples organizations based in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) with principal office at Door No. 5 Marzoc Apartment, Bagua 2, Cotobato City.*
>
> 1. *Petitioner was founded on 14 June 2005 in Cotobato City*
> 2. *Petitioner, then known as the Citizen Coalition for ARMM Electoral Elections (Citizens CARE), was accredited by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) as a Citizen of ARMM in the last August 8, 2005 ARMM Election and May 14 Synchronized National and Local Elections on 8 August 2005;*
> 3. *The coalition is duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and a copy of the SEC Registration is attached hereto as Annex "A"*
> 4. *The principal objective of the coalition is to form a citizen's arm that will engage in Voter Education and Election Day Monitoring in pursuit of honesty, clean, orderly, and fair elections in the ARMM;*
> 5. *At present, petitioner through its member organization has seven thousand one hundred twenty eight (7,128) members spread over the whole Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao;*
> 6. *The governing body of the petitioner are its Board of Trustees composed of ten (10) members, namely:*
>
> | | | |
> |---|---|---|
> | 1. | *Chairman* | — *Salic B. Ibrahim* |
> | 2. | *Vice Chairman* | — *Thaiba S. Anwar* |
> | 3. | *Secretary General* | — *Arlena S. Aming* |
> | 4. | *Treasurer* | — *Jumda S. Saba-ani* |
> | 5. | *BOT Member* | — *Romie M. Guialel* |
> | 6. | *BOT Member* | — *Bobby P. Taguntong* |
> | 7. | *BOT Member* | — *Sulaiman M. Natangcop* |
> | 8. | *BOT Member* | — *Rahman B. Sabito* |
> | 9. | *BOT Member* | — *Rahima A. Kauto* |
> | 10. | *BOT Member* | — *Catherine B. Hassan* |
>
> 7. *Pursuant to its objectives and the public interest the petitioner hereby renews its interest in assisting the Commission on Elections in the performance of its function and Activities, as mandated by the Constitutions as a **Citizens Arm** for the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections on October 29, 2007, specifically in the Six (6) provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Cities of Cotobato and Isabela.*
> 8. *Particularly, petitioner seeks to be accredited as a Voter Education And Election Monitoring organization, with specific authorities:*
>
> *1) To conduct Voter Education activities in preparation for any and all electoral exercises, in general, and the coming Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections, in particular; and,*
>
> 9. *The petitioner, or any of its member:*
>
> *a. Is **NOT** supporting any candidate, political party, organization or coalition of political parties, in the ARMM where it seeks accreditation;*
> *b. Has the capability to undertake coordinated operations and activities to assist the Commission;*
> *c. Shall submit itself to the direct and immediate control and supervision of the Commission and comply with its orders in the performance of its function and activities and such other functions and activities which the Commission may assign;*
> *d. Shall strictly remain non partisan and impartial during the registration and election period;*
> *e. Is **NOT** supported by or under the influence of any foreign government or any if its agencies or instrumental; or of any foreigner, whether natural or juridical person;*
> *f. Shall not seek to achieve its objectives, goals, or program through violence or other unlawful means, nor aim to propagate any ideology opposed to the principles of a republican and democratic government; and*
> *g. Shall undertake to police its ranks and prevent infiltration by person or groups of person who may, directly or indirectly, destroy its character of nonpartisanship and impartially."*

On October 16, 2007, the Commission *en banc* issued an Order directing Citizens CARE to cause the publication of its petition in a newspaper of general circulation. The latter was likewise notified of the hearing scheduled on October 22, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the Comelec Session Hall, Intramuros, Manila.

On October 22, 2007, Atty. Mentang T. Kabagani appeared as counsel for Citizens CARE. There was no oppositor. Citizens CARE emphasized its continuing commitment in assisting this Commission of ensuring the conduct of a clean, honest, fair and orderly election.

Nevertheless, the Commission asked Citizens CARE to elucidate on matters relating to their past achievements. It was also directed to submit to the Clerk of the Commission proof of compliance with the jurisdictional requirements pursuant to the Order dated October 16, 2007 and a detailed plan of action for the forthcoming Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections together with its report of participation during the 2007 elections.

Counsel presented the following exhibits for marking:

Copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer[2] dated October 20, 2007	"Exhibit A"
Page B6 where the Petition[3] appeared	"Exhibit B"
Page B6 where the Order[4] appeared	"Exhibit C"
Certification of Publication[5] issued by the Branch Manager of the Philippine Daily Inquirer	"Exhibit D"
Signature[6] of the Branch Manager of the Philippine Daily Inquirer	"Exhibit D-1"

Citizens CARE also submitted copies of its final Election and Monitoring Report[7] on the May 14, 2007 Synchronized National and Local Elections and its Plan of Activities[8] for the October 29, 2007 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections.

We now rule.

Petitioner has sufficiently proven that it has sufficiently complied with the stringent requirements for accreditation as prescribed under Rule 33 of the Comelec Rules of Procedure. This Commission therefore resolves to accredit CITIZENS COALITION FOR ARMM ELECTORAL REFORMS, INC. (Citizens CARE for brevity) as citizen's arm of the Commission pursuant to Section 2(5) of Article IX (C) of the 1987 Constitution[9] and Section 52 (k) of the Omnibus Election Code[10] as amended and other election laws in connection with the October 29, 2007 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections. The Citizens CARE must perform the following duties:

1. Conduct poll watching in various precincts, including assistance to voters;
2. Assist the Commission in voter's information and values education in every municipality, province and city including highly urbanized cities.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the instant petition for accreditation is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

a) That it shall be subject to the direct and immediate control of the Commission and shall comply with all lawful orders of the Commission in the performance of its specific functions and activities as provided in Section 52 (k) of the Omnibus Election Code, and such other functions and activities which the Commission may assign to it;

b) That it shall be non-partisan and impartial during the election period;

c) That it shall not be under the influence whatsoever of any foreign government corporation, or entity and shall not solicit or receive, directly or indirectly, any contribution or aid of whatever form or nature from any government, corporation or entity, and that neither shall said organization nor any of its members seek to achieve its objectives or programs through violence, or aim to propagate any ideology opposed to the principles of a republican and democratic government;

d) That it shall undertake to police its ranks and prevent infiltration by persons or group of persons who may, directly or indirectly, destroy its character of impartiality;

e) That it shall submit to the Commission a list of its responsible officials and other officers constituting its board and there shall be no changes therein without the approval of the Commission;

f) That it shall make available to the Commission its personnel, facilities, equipment, papers and effects and coordinate its activity with other accredited citizen's arm of the Commission;

g) That it shall submit a weekly written report of its operations during the period of the October 29, 2007 elections;

h) That this accreditation shall be deemed automatically revoked in case it violates any of the conditions herein set forth.

The Executive Director of the Commission in coordination with the Clerk of the Commission shall implement this Resolution immediately upon its promulgation, furnishing copies thereof to all field officers nationwide including the candidates.

The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this Resolution in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation.

SO ORDERED.

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[1]Records, page 1.
[2]Records, page 30.
[3]Records, page 31.
[4]Records, page 31.
[5]Records, page 32.
[6]Ibid.
[7]Records, Volume II
[8]Records, page 33
[9]Section 2(5) of Article IX (C) of the 1987 Constitution.

"Section 2. The Commission on Elections shall exercise the following powers and functions:

(5) Register, after sufficient publication, political parties, organizations, or coalitions which, in addition to other requirements, must present their platform of government; and accredit citizen's arms of the Commission on Elections. Religious denominations and sects shall not be registered. Those which seek to achieve their goals through violence or unlawful means, or refuse to uphold and adhere to this Constitution, or which are supported by any foreign government shall likewise be refused registration." (Emphasis supplied)

[10] *Sec. 52 of the Omnibus Election Code.*

*"Sec. 52. **Powers and functions of the Commission on Elections.** – In addition to the powers and functions conferred upon it by the Constitution, the Commission shall have exclusive charge of the enforcement and administration of all laws relative to the conduct of the elections for the purpose of ensuring free, orderly and honest elections, and shall:*

xxx

(k) Enlist non-partisan group of organizations of citizens from the civic, youth, professional, educational, business or labor sectors known for their probity, impartiality and integrity with the membership and capability to undertake a coordinated operation and activity to assist it in the implementation of the provisions of this Code and the resolutions, orders and instructions of the Commission for the purpose of ensuring free, orderly and honest elections in any constituency. xxx"

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Acting Chairman

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the conclusions in the above resolution were reached in consultation among the members of the Commission before the case was assigned to the writer of the opinion of the Commission *(En banc)*.

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Acting Chairman

(PDI – October 28, 2007)

Sunday LIFESTYLE Exclusives

Guest Editor Mert Loinaz
is amazed at the range of new experiences available to the 60-somethings. She has realized limitations are often only in the mind. She's thrilled at contributing to three anthologies ("Shaking the Family Tree," "Why We Travel" and "The Manila We Knew," the last two Manila Critics' Circle winners) and co-editing "Life on the Cusp" with Rita Ledesma.
When her husband retired, she thought they would live a sedentary life on their farm. She was, instead, excited by the challenge of converting rocky hillsides into colorful gardens. The bonus was the discovery of good friends among old acquaintances who also had farms nearby. She still fantasizes about paragliding, figure-skating and meditating on a mountain ledge in Tibet. But for now, she's grateful to be in a very good place.

SCULPTURE PHOTO: ROMY HOMILLADA

So, who's afraid of the Big Six-O?

APPARENTLY NOT everyone. When we looked around among the friends we see regularly, we found that those who were entrepreneurs were still focused on growth and more growth. Those who were involved in advocacy work and nongovernment organizations were still energetically at it. And then there were those who decided to reinvent themselves.

Bambi Harper went back to UP for a Ph.D.
(Bambi writes about it

Linda Panlilio moved on from trying to 're-create' her figure to creating images with oils on canvas and creating images with words.
(Read Linda's articles in this issue,

In 2001, she won the Manila Critics' Circle Award for the biography of her mother "Teacher To Tycoon: The Life and Times of Trinidad Diaz Enriquez" (Anvil, 2000).

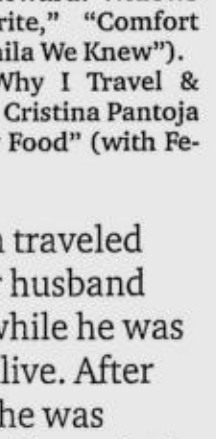
She has contributed to several anthologies and has edited two books ("From This Day Forward: Widows and Widowers Write," "Comfort Food" and "The Manila We Knew").

She co-edited "Why I Travel & Other Essays" (with Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo) and "Slow Food" (with Felice Sta. Maria.)

Maribel Ongpin traveled widely with her husband while he was alive. After she was widowed, she continued to travel with friends, though the trips took on a new focus: adventure.

(Read Maribel's article in this issue)

Susan Calo Medina literally climbed a mountain. To keep in shape, she does Pilates three times a week, uses a cardio machine five times a week and does 15 minutes of

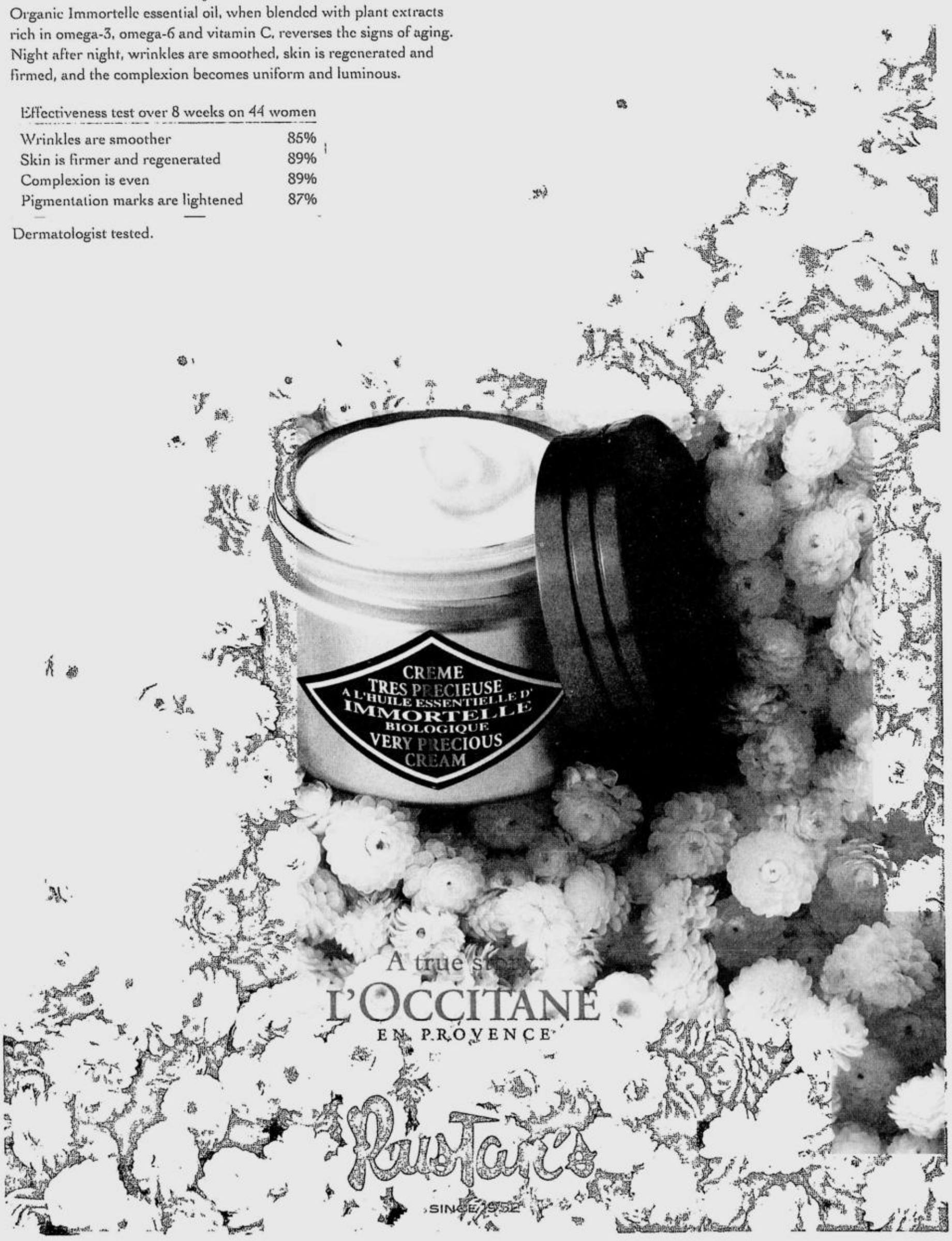


The Immortelle flower.
Source of youth for your face.

Very Precious Cream. Repairing Night Cream.
In Corsica, the Mediterranean Island of Beauty, grows the Immortelle flower, an eternal yellow blossom that never withers. Organic Immortelle essential oil, when blended with plant extracts rich in omega-3, omega-6 and vitamin C, reverses the signs of aging. Night after night, wrinkles are smoothed, skin is regenerated and firmed, and the complexion becomes uniform and luminous.

Effectiveness test over 8 weeks on 44 women	
Wrinkles are smoother	85%
Skin is firmer and regenerated	89%
Complexion is even	89%
Pigmentation marks are lightened	87%

Dermatologist tested.



A true story
L'OCCITANE
EN PROVENCE
Rue Tarte
SINCE 1952

The 10 o'clock scholar

The newest member of a writing class carries a school ID and a senior-citizen card

By Bambi Harper
Contributor

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

HAVING BELIEVED MYSELF immortal for a good part of my life, it came as a rude surprise that this wasn't the case at all. This nasty revelation came about sometime after I had celebrated the half a century mark. No wonder my grandchild thought I had seen dinosaurs since I was beginning to think I was one myself.

That was hardly the worst part. It wasn't just a case of jowls or expanding hips or double chins, or the merging of bust lines and waistlines. The utterly awful moment was the sight of my fallen knees in a photograph. Who asked Isaac Newton to discover gravity anyway?

Not having summoned up enough courage to go under the knife from top to toes, I decided farther along that since I wasn't about to grow younger (although it does make sense if we're born old and just go backward in time.

Like babies

Don't the old act like babies in the end? And at least we'd be cuter) then I may as well do something for my mind since I kept calling my children by the dog's name or sometimes any name that came to mind including "*hoy*."

That being the case the idea of going back to school began to germinate with its attendant advantages. For one, no matter what I did, if I didn't enroll, I'd still be three or four years older without anything to show for it except more wrinkles.

Leastways I could place "Dr." in front of my name legitimately. None of that *honoris causa* for me in the event that by some miracle (unlikely) some institution would decide to confer one. And best of all I could even use the title for my obit, as I had written the dean of the University of the Philippines College of Arts & Letters.

After fulfilling several requirements—letter of intent; letters of recommendation; entrance test (probably to show you weren't gaga yet); proof of ability; certified true marriage license copy (twice, at that. What did it have to do with anything?); original transcript of records; health clearance—I finally earned the right to introduce myself as the grandmother of Dr. Butch Dalisay's class.

Like teacher

At first, I'd be addressed as "Ma'am," which made me feel like the teacher I once was and it took a while before any of my classmates called me by my name hesitatingly, true, like in what do you do with a fossil?

Paula, an exceptionally talented student, was reading her essay where she stated that she was now 33 and old and wise (or words to that effect), and I started laughing. If she was old then I must be dead and didn't know it! Even my son-in-law thought it was hilarious hearing me speak about "sem break."

Among the many things I've learned none was as enlightening as what is cyber sex (the other *lolas* I've explained it to are now wiser) and why announce your sexual preferences in a blog (*lolas'* bewilderment emphasizes the generation gap).

Having decided that this is fun, I've just handed in the required work for the two subjects of this semester. And you had better hope we wing this one because it's going to prove very, very embarrassing if, as a certified true member of the Senior Citizens for Movies Card, I flunk, don't you think?

Bambi Harper has gone from modeling to running a dress shop to operating an Italian restaurant to teaching literature to writing a newspaper column. She's now working for a doctorate and we can only speculate on the list of careers this will lead her to.

So, who's afraid

From page 1

weight training for arms and legs three times a week.

(Read related in th

Joy Virata: I've lived all those past years and am happy not to relive them.

Amalie Azanza was enjoying scuba-diving with her husband and sons but then the boys got too busy with work and their young families. No problem. She joined a reading club facilitated by Zeneida Amador. That was for her mind. The other activity—belly-dancing—explains how she has kept her figure. Here she is in her costume with proud granddaughter, Dani.

Bing Carrion Buck: Delighted that I am able to speak my mind and laugh about life's foibles.

Anna Fenstad: Being able to say "Me first!" without feeling guilty.

Linda Panlilio: Oh, the freedom to be myself at last!

Jimmy Laya: Since one can't do anything about it, one should just relax, enjoy it and act one's age.

Elen Jison: I now have the time and the resources to pursue whatever interests me.

Bambi Harper: What pleasure to be comfortable in one's skin!

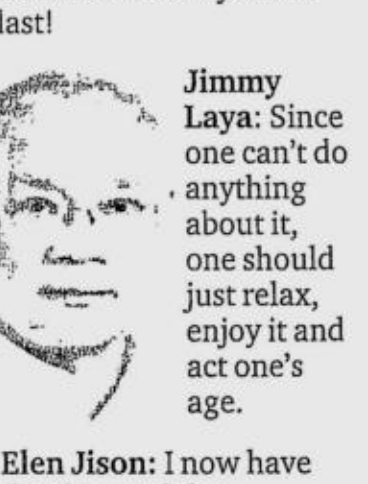
Jovie Yupangco: Having the freedom and the means to indulge my interests.

Imagine what other marvelous discoveries a broader survey would reveal!

We asked some cool seniors what they like best about being this age and here's what they said.

Bet Montecillo, who started composing music for pleasure and has home-recorded some of it to be played during Masses for her outreach projects, says: 'To be in my 60s—the golden years of my golden years—with my self reinvented.'

Frank Evaristo : I can now relax and enjoy the fruits of my work.



Marrot Moreno : At this age, I now know who are the true friends I can put my hand in the fire for.

Ladies who read

DONE WITH MOTHERING AND WITH many of them retired, as well, from their business and professional concerns, a convivial group of ladies got together over a decade ago, when they were still far from their 60s, to read books of substance.

Shepherded by the formidable Zeneida Amador, they started to meet at the residence of Marrot Moreno every Thursday noon, to discuss books assigned by Amador—from the Greek tragedies to Shakespeare, Tolstoy, Honoré de Balzac, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, to contemporary authors like Ian McEwan, Antonio Coelho, Arundhati Roy and JM Coetzee. Since Amador's passing almost two years ago, Maribel Ongpin has taken over, continuing with Booker and other well-written books, like those of Pamuk, Vonnegut, Khalid Hosseini, Iwasaki.

Philippine authors read have been Nick Joaquin, NVM Gonzalez, Gilda Cordero Fernando, Carmen G. Nakpil, Charlson Ong. The focus of discussions is not just on the plot and characterization, but most of all, on the insight the reader has gotten from the book. A sumptuous lunch hosted by whoever is celebrating a birthday is always an enticement to be present.

Members of this book club are Marrot Moreno, Marilou Tuason Guingona, Louie Locsin, Mary Madrigal de Leon, Mary Beth de Leon, Eleanor Esteban, Linda E. Panlilio, Ellie Cabarrus, Sally Marshall, Angela del Rosario, Bernadette Paterno, Zenaida Seva, Lita Ascalon, Joy Virata, Amalie Azanza, Chichi Laperal, Juda Liu, Monique Villonco and Malin S. Santos. Cristy Bernasconi and Girlie Rodis, both far from their 60s, are also part of this exclusive book club.

Women who write

Members of the Women Writers Workshop have produced award-winning books

MANY PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN CREATIVE writing but there are so many obstacles to actually doing it, like free time, getting a teacher, getting a group together.

But with characteristic persistence, Lolita Delgado Fansler hurdled these obstacles. She actually found 10 women who were willing to commit to an ongoing workshop, got them to agree on a common day and time, and managed to convince multi-awarded author and creative writing professor Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo to take up the challenge of teaching them the discipline of writing creatively.

To Hidalgo's credit (with publisher Karina Bolasco's encouraging support), the group actually came out with its first anthology, produced in response to Hidalgo's challenge to "write about a subject you know well—like your parents!"

Since that first timid attempt in 1998, W3 has published two more anthologies: "Why We Travel" and "The Manila We Knew." These last won awards from The Manila Critics Circle.

Individual members have also published: Linda Panlilio: "Teacher To Tycoon," Lourdes Montinola: "Breaking the Silence," Nening Manahan: "Streetbound: Manila on Foot."

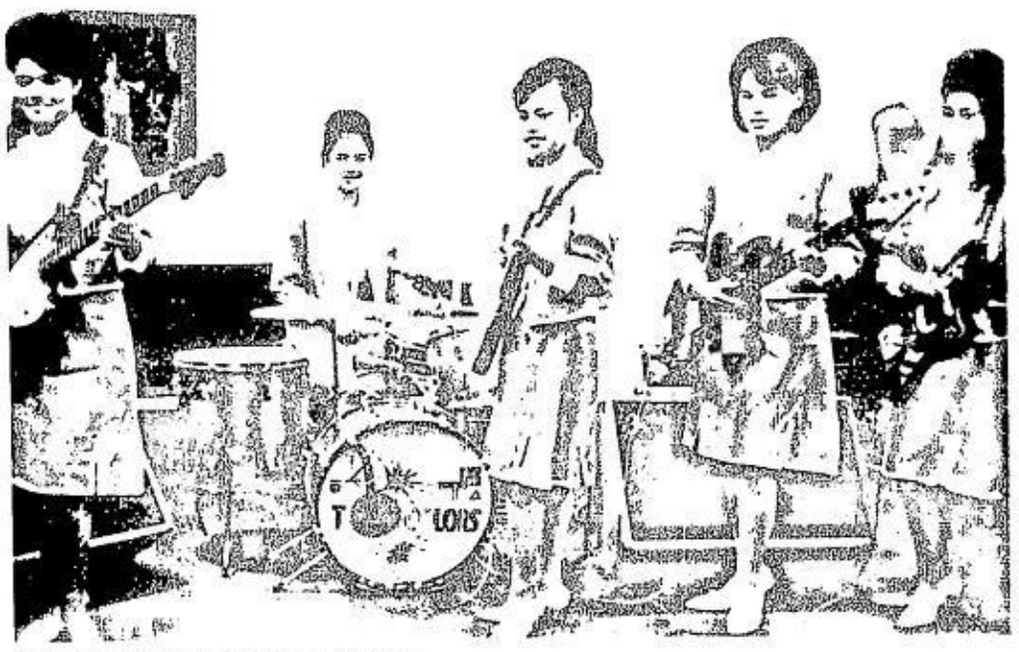
Some members have also edited anthologies that included other writers: Rita Ledesma and Mert Loinaz: "Life on the Cusp," Linda Panlilio: "Slow Food," "Widows and Widowers."

AT THE "SHAKING THE FAMILY TREE" 1998 LAUNCH IN METROPOLITAN MUSEUM. Rita Ledesma, Jing Hidalgo, Linda Panlilio, Gina Ordoñez, Mari Cris Olbes, (standing) Mert Loinaz, Lolita Fausler, Anna Pamplona, Henrie Santos, Nening Manahan, Sandra Gonzales, Milette Ocampo, Ging G. Montinola

MANILA POLO CLUB 2006. Millette T. Ocampo, Henrie Regala-Santos, Nening Pedrosa-Manahan, Mert Loinaz, Lolita Delgado-Fansler, Ging Gonzales Montinola, Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Linda Enriquez Panlilio, Anna Aguirre-Pamplona, Wynn Wynn Ong, Manny Baldemor, Karina Bolasco and Laling Hildalgo Lim

JOVIE Dayrit, Connie Gomez, Anna Fenstad, Jojo Echauz and Elen Jison jamming in Jovie's den.

Play it again, Grams



THE PEPPERMINTS at their first gig

By Mert Loinaz

Although the band stopped playing after high school, the girls remained friends through college, marriages, children, separations, widowhood

THE RAINY-DAY MONDAY gloom doesn't make it into the basement den where five women—former high-school classmates and friends since then—sit down to lunch. The chatter is nonstop and one wonders what else is left to talk about after 40 years.

Two of them are head-to-head discussing some business concerns, sotto voce. Jovie is being called to the TV by Andres, her 3-year-old grandson: "Nonna, you sit HERE!" and the other two are laughing about some incident at a recent gathering.

Right after dessert, though, Anna and Glen quickly move over to where the musical instruments are set up. The twanging of an electric guitar and punctuated by soft drum rolls are not-too-subtle hints that they are eager to start jamming. The other three take the cue and join them. When they start to play, they become so immersed in their music, they don't even see me slip out.

Jovie Dayrit, Anna Fenstad, Elen Jison, Connie Gomez and Jojo Echauz were classmates in Assumption High School at a time when student bands were starting to become popular; providing live music instead of those 33 1/3 rpm records played on phonographs at parties. That was the era when parties were called "jam sessions."

The five friends knew how to play some instruments and were often tapped as "local talents" in Assumption High School programs. It was a boys' band that helped launch them into "serious" playing, though. The Technicolors, thanks to the Villanueva boys, had really good instruments and a music studio in which to practice—and even record. Before long, the girls had organized themselves into the Peppermints and started to actually do gigs.

It was at one of these gigs that La Salle Raffy Yupangco saw and fell in love with Jovie Dayrit. (There's a point to this romantic digression.)

PERFORMING in high school

THE COOLMINTS at their first "public" performance after 40 years

Although they stopped playing after high school, the girls remained friends throughout college, marriages, children, separations, widowhood. Jovie and Raffy stayed married.

Two years ago, Elen heard about a group in Australia called Weekend Warriors. Organized by the (then) ailing music industry, men and women who were retired or semi-retired and who had always wanted to play in a band were provided with the venues and the instruments to do so. Elen lost no time in texting Jovie: "Let's revive the Peppermints!" No one was more encouraging than Raffy, who helped them get set up. A cousin, Anthony Yupangco, had a set of drums in storage. He sent it to the group "on permanent loan." The Yupangco den has become their studio.

Of late, though, Connie and Jojo have not been able to join them. So they recruited Lulu Lopez-Katigbak (lead guitar) and Celuch Araneta-Manahan (rhythm guitar), formerly of another high-school band called the Poni-Debs. Bebe Suria also alternates on the rhythm guitar. Jovie plays the bass guitar and Elen plays the second lead guitar. Anna punctuates on the drums. They jokingly call themselves today the Coolmints. (Anna and Lulu love playing so much, they've joined another all-women's band called Rhythm and Babes, which actually does gigs on weekends. In fact, as of this writing, they're playing weekends at BG's on Pasay Road.)

Although they don't play in public, the kids and grandchildren of the Coolmints are somewhat amused at the idea but extremely proud that their mothers and grandmothers are still "cool rockers!"

COOL grandma Anna at her drums

AFTER 40 YEARS, The Peppermints get together with some members of The Technicolors.

Sex in our 60s

Do sexagenerians still do it? What the heck!

By Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio
Contributor

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

I WAS A WIDOW AT 60. NO more sex for me, unless I resorted to fornication, which my Catholic brainwashing will not allow (The nuns in my convent school had pounded "Concupiscence!" into my psyche, as though it were a monster to run away from). Besides, whom with? I'm pretty choosy. He's got to appeal not only to my visual senses, but must also stimulate the neurons of my brain. Such a rare animal cannot be found in the desert that is Manila. If he exists, he must be taken, or is either gay, a priest, or an Opus Dei numerary.

I decided to turn to vicarious experiences through my girlfriends. I began to ask my sixty-something friends if they still did it at their age, and what it was like. A high school classmate who remarried after her marriage was annulled, told me her sex life had lost its spontaneity because she had to prepare for it. (Sorry, example too graphic for a newspaper of general circulation.)

Leny (not her real name), another high school classmate who is now on her fourth husband (all of them died, one at a time), told me that her current husband who is in his mid-70s, is the best yet. Being a Spanish mestizo, he is very *cariñoso* and caters to her. At any rate, he even takes it upon himself to fix her closet, arranging her blouses according to color. He even folds her underwear and keeps them in neat piles.

Second chances

I noticed that Leny has a widow's peak. She got married not long after we finished high school; in fact, she was going steady with her husband-to-be when we were in fourth year high school. She must have been only 17 then. She had two sons with him, and then he died in a car accident. She was a widow at 30.

Because, as they say, life is a series of second chances, Leny married again, a widower, to whom my classmates and I objected because he was asthmatic. I told her he might not last; besides, he had four or five children, which would complicate things for her. And true enough, they did. My fear came true... he had a heart attack, brought on by the strain of an asthmatic attack.

Another widower courted her not long after. This time, she decided not to marry him, hoping to forestall her becoming a widow anew. They simply lived together, on weekdays in her spacious home in San Juan, on weekends in his. One day, he had a heart attack and died. We told her that going to her husband's wake was not exactly our idea of a high school reunion.

But Leny was unfazed, for a year later comes this Spanish mestizo, also a widower with two grown-up children. After only a six-month courtship, they were married. We all approved of him because he was good-looking and very thoughtful of her. In fact, he adored her. Unfortunately, he had been an incorrigible smoker. Only six months after their wedding, he was diagnosed with lung cancer.

Vicarious thrill

That was five years ago. He is still alive, thanks to chemotherapy and all our prayers. I got my vicarious thrill from her narration of the way he made love to her. He would start by kissing her hand, and keep on going up her arm to her shoulder, neck, on and on to her erogenous zones.

That was the extent of my vicarious sex life, for other friends could only tell me that their sex life is now limited to once every two weeks or more. A few have admitted to their husband's use of Viagra, but most have said the blue pill was unnecessary. They simply work at it whenever the spirit (or libido) moves them.

A girlfriend from college in UP, who married before she could graduate, had five children and was widowed when she was in her 50s. At the age of 65, she married a widower 12 years her senior. Because he is already 80, he often has to resort to taking the blue pill. My girlfriend says she no longer enjoys sex because she gets exhausted from having to do all the work.

Being unused to hard labor, I guess God has spared me.

Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio is a member of the famous Enriquez clan of restaurateurs and hoteliers. No, her kitchen specialty is not aphrodisiac, although she does a mean and concupiscible kare-kare. In her widowhood, she acquired an MA in Creative Writing and has embarked on a successful editing and writing career. The last book she edited, "The Manila We Knew," won this year's National Book Award.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Exclusives

Taking a risk for beauty

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Along with my tummy tuck, I had a beautician tattoo my eyebrows and upper eyelids. When I woke up, I was aghast to find it was my lower lids that had been tattooed!

By Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio
Contributor

I HAD BEEN EXPERIENCING excruciating pain in my left shoulder, and was unable to lift my left arm. An X-ray revealed that there were calcium deposits in the bursa, and the condition was called calcific tendinitis. For a whole year-and-a-half, I had to sleep sitting up because it hurt to lie on my back.

Despite two steroid injections to the shoulder three months apart, my condition hadn't improved. Orthopedic specialist Antonio Rivera suggested surgery, called arthrotomy. I thought it over, and finally agreed to have it done provided I could proceed to have a tummy tuck by my husband's medical-school classmate, Dr. Jorge (George) Neri, as soon as the shoulder job was over. I figured I could maximize the anesthesia; i.e., have one anesthesia for two surgeries.

Missing bellybutton

After four babies my tummy just wouldn't go back to its pre-pregnancy state, no matter how much I dieted and exercised. It was bulging like a small balloon, and the skin was loose almost like a turkey's neck, aside from being lined with the striae of pregnancy. I took to wearing a girdle. I did aerobics and yoga, but never tried running, as that would result, someone said, in sagging breasts and fallen arches.

Dr. Neri suggested a lipectomy (tummy tuck) rather than a liposuction that was then in its infant stage in the 1980s. At least, he said, he could see the fats he would be removing, unlike in liposuction that vacuums out both fats and blood vessels indiscriminately.

George would cut the skin (not touching the muscle, unlike in a Caesarean section), lift it, and scrape off the fats (adipose tissue). He would pull down the loose skin, cut off the excess, and suture it back. Naturally, my bellybutton would have been pulled downward.

My husband, an OB-Gyne, was in the OR. Concerned that my bellybutton was missing toward the end of the surgery, he asked, "George, what happened to Linda's umbilicus?"

"Oh, I sectioned it. It's just underneath. *Susungkitin ko mamaya* (I'll fish it out later)."

Astonishing figure

I had called up my friend Marian Krohn the night before the operation to have her beautician, who tattoos eyebrows, come to the hospital's recovery room and tattoo my eyebrows and upper eyelids. My right upper eyelid had a tiny blank space from an incision in the past to remove a sty. I always had to use black eyeliner to cover it up. I thought I could at last dispense with it by having my eyelids tattooed.

To be free of the pain from the tattooing needles, I hit upon the idea of having it done while I was still groggy from the surgical anesthesia, which would therefore make it a three procedures-for-one anesthesia. Little did I know that the general anesthesia Dr. Remedios Suntay gave me for the arthrotomy would not be adequate. Doctor Neri later told me he had to ask Doctor Suntay to administer spinal anesthesia after the arthrotomy was done!

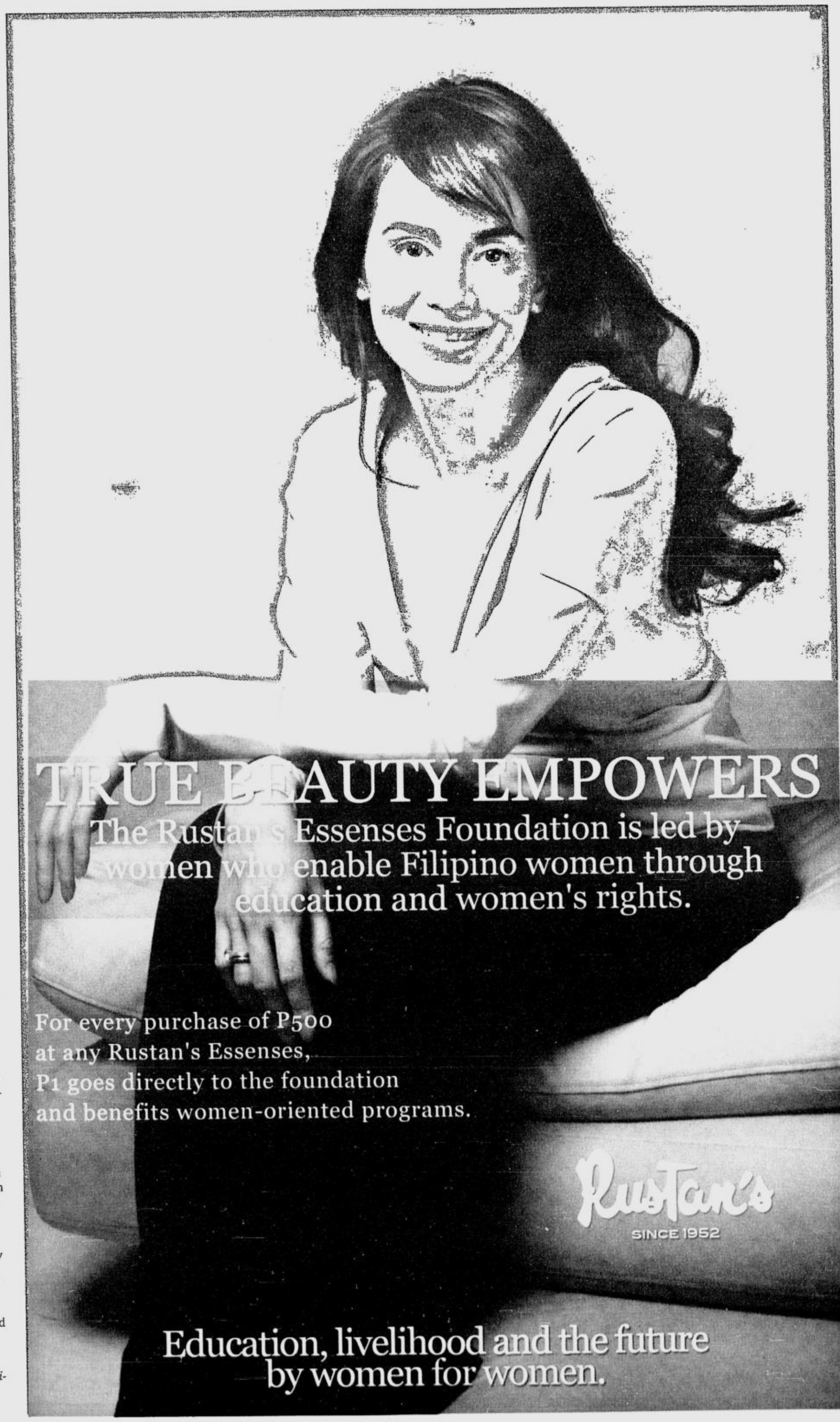
At last in the recovery room, Doctor Suntay called the female residents, interns and nurses. "*Hoy, manood kayo rito*! Tattoo!" (Hey, come and watch the tattooing!) It was a novelty then, and she was very amused. The problem was, when I woke up, I was aghast to find it was my lower lids that had been tattooed!

I was home on the third day. And sitting on the loo, upon looking down, I was astonished to see my pubis! I had not seen it in 12 years due to the fact that my tummy had been obstructing my view of it. I gasped, "Oh, hello! *Nandyan ka pala*."

I went from a size 10 to 8. The skin of my stomach had become smooth, and my tummy was finally almost flat. I took a risk for beauty, thinking nothing of it, as I have always been a risk taker.

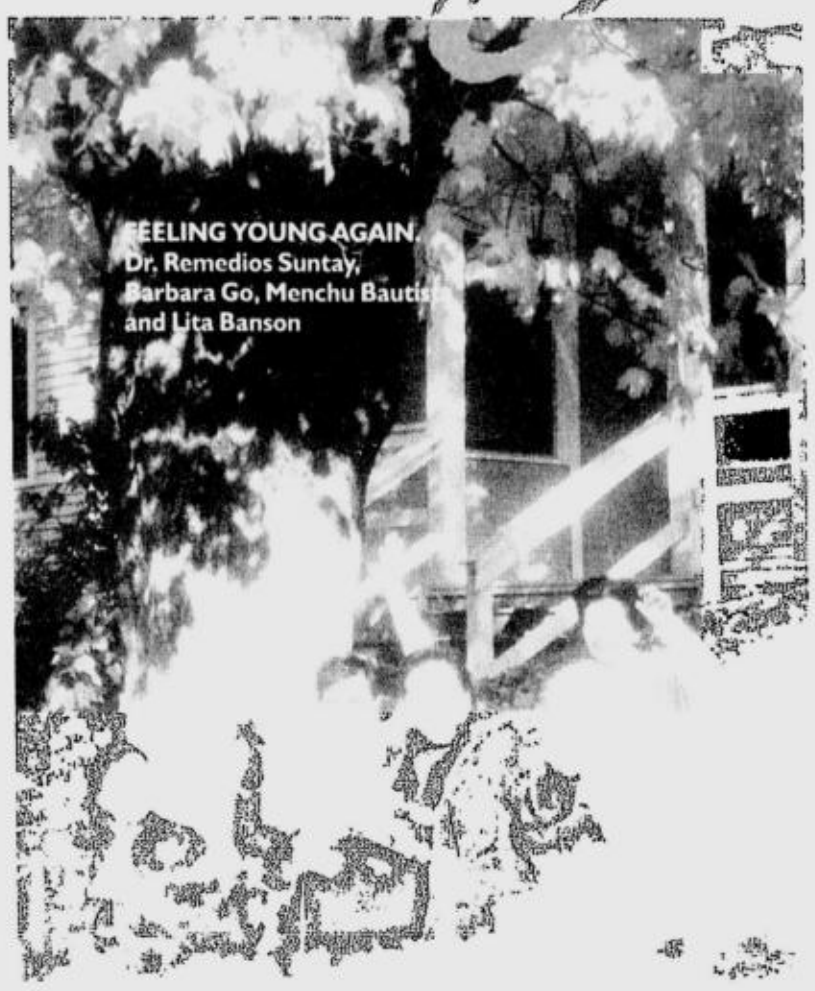
I would try anything once, which is why my husband was always on his guard with me, lest I fall into a black hole and disappear from the face of the earth.

This essay is an excerpt from a chapter titled "Portrait of Myself" of the author's book-in-progress.



LYING ON A BED OF AUTUMN LEAVES.
Barbara Go and Lita Gauson

An autumn adventure



FEELING YOUNG AGAIN.
Dr. Remedios Suntay, Barbara Go, Menchu Bautis[illegible] and Lita Banson

In their 60s, seven women decided to go on a road trip of the US

IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE out in Dasmariñas Village at 6 a.m. on a weekday, you might chance upon a group of women (with an occasional gentleman or two) striding at a brisk pace along Palm Avenue toward Santuario de San Antonio for the 6:15 Mass. They will be wearing T-shirts of the same color—a different one for each day of the week—and you will wonder how they can keep up their pace while chatting animatedly.

Several years ago (we'll keep the number purposely vague), this group of friends who all lived within the village decided that being sixty-something required some kind of exercise, and brisk walking sounded like a fun choice. They would meet at someone's house at 5 a.m. and go along an established route, so that any latecomers would know where to go if they wanted to catch up. The route would get them to Santuario de San Antonio in time for the 6:15 a.m. Mass. Afterward, physically and spiritually energized, they would all go out to breakfast. Before long, the breakfasts turned into planning sessions for trying out new luncheon places or day trips to someone's farm. The group's size expanded or contracted depending on mood or schedule but there were six or seven "constants." Among them were concert pianists Nena del Rosario Villanueva and Amelita Guevara, who count on the Walking Group and their families for sell-out concerts. In the parish, the group raised the initial funds for a scholarship program, which yearly sponsors 50 vocational school scholars and a limited number of college students.

It was with typical high energy that seven of these women decided they would go to the US, rent a van and drive through New England to bask in the colors of fall. The large photo album that records their trip is titled "An Autumn Adventure by Seven Phenomenal Women in a Big Red Van."

Menchu Bautista's opening entry goes "Finally, after months of planning Lita Banson, Barbara Go, Barbara Lichaytoo, Peachy Maramba, Henrie Santos, Meding Suntay and I were on our way to yet another travel adventure in the autumn of our lives."

And so they went, in their big red Ford Excursion, from Connecticut to Massachusetts to Rhode Island to Maine to Vermont to New Hampshire and back to Connecticut in less than two weeks–seven phenomenal women, as gloriously colorful as fall, in the autumn of their lives.

ALL SET TO ROLL!
Menchu Bautista, Meding Suntay, Peachy Maramba, Barbara Go, Henrie Santos and Lita Benson (kneeling)

Memories of a paragliding adventure

By Maria Isabel Ongpin
Contributor

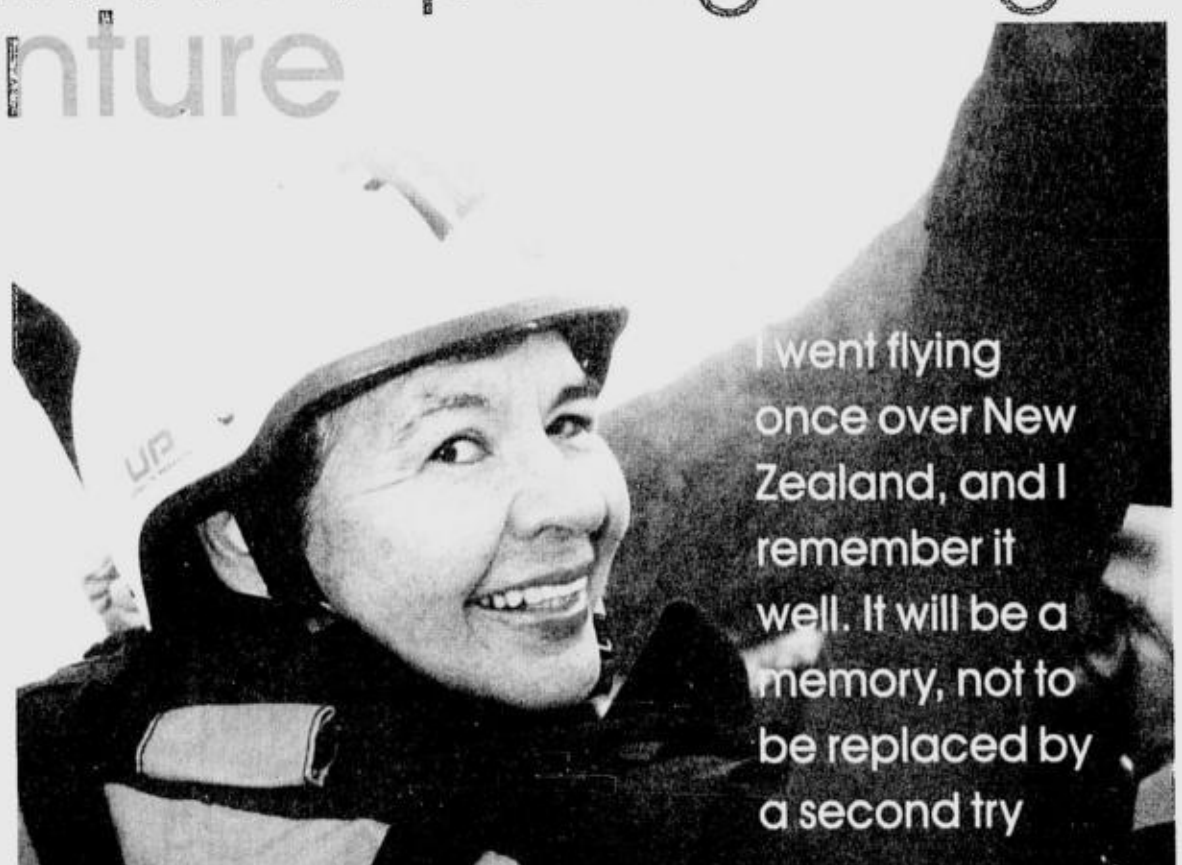
I WENT PARAGLIDING IN NEW Zealand more than 10 years, maybe 15 years ago. It has a special place in my rich trove of memories.

I was on South Island at Queenstown with a group of Filipino women tourists. New Zealand is almost forest primeval on South Island with primary-growth trees, Ice Age-era fjords, snowcapped mountains and numerous glaciers. All our excursions were outdoor activities. Some of us had already done whitewater rafting, the majority had opted for jet riverboating, we all had crossed a swift running stream and a handful of us had landed by helicopter on a glacier.

When we took a trek up a mountain overlooking Queenstown, we were aiming for the top by climbing rather than using the cable-car alternative. The New Zealand air was very exhilarating and while the path to the mountaintop was becoming steeper and we were more and more breathless, it was a challenge the whole group took up with much repartee and camaraderie.

I was one of the first to arrive at the top, which was a forest patch with a ravine to one side and the downward path on the other side. I was fulfilled, I had reached the top as planned.

Then we noticed some large kite-looking contraptions parked nearby and some men who were obviously their owners. These were the paragliders and their pilot guides. We quickly learned that for a fee, they could take us up flying or gliding in the air. Apparently, it was the obvious tourist sequence to climbing the mountain in Queenstown. Faced with this challenge, about six of us took the call of adventure.



I went flying once over New Zealand, and I remember it well. It will be a memory, not to be replaced by a second try

Vague idea

I did not plan to paraglide when I climbed the mountain. I never thought it would be something available. I had a very vague idea of what paragliding entailed. I had never dreamed of doing it like some people dream of climbing Mt. Everest, or jetskiing the blue ocean or driving in a Formula One race.

None of that. It was just a sudden impulse, similar to racing up the Great Wall of China when I found myself there. I had no anticipatory fears, and certainly no emotional preparation. I just agreed like the other five to try paragliding without thinking it through.

I got strapped into the contraption that I noted was like a light plane. There was a harness for a seat and no floor. You could see clear through all the way down. The pilot was harnessed in front of me. My only luggage was the camera around my neck.

Only when I was harnessed did I begin to think. When the pilot said, "We will now run that way" (indicating the ravine), I started thinking and my heart began pounding as it meant taking a running jump into empty space—very counter-instinctive to self-preservation and all the defensive measures a human being needed to keep alive.

Pounding heart

My heart pounded but I shut my mind off, gritted my teeth and just ran after him. Then we jumped, and suddenly, instead of going down to the trees and rocks that I could see waiting right under my feet in the ravine, we were going up, higher and higher, leaving trees, rocks, the mountain behind and flying toward the sea with Queenstown right under us. We were high, as high as a helicopter could fly, and we had a 360-degree view of South Island.

My heart was pounding. I could virtually hear it in the sudden silence. It was a soundless, magical flying-carpet ride over Creation. And that is what I remember vividly until now. It was as though I were in a vacuum filled with sights but no sound. We went over hills, houses, swimming pools, a lake, parts of the sea and low wooden buildings with the occasional larger one, plus trees, trees and trees.

People were going in different directions, tiny moving things next to the immense moving sea.

I was part of the sky, like a bird but without any wings. My two hands held tight to the straps of my harness. When the pilot said I could now take pictures, I wordlessly refused, afraid to let go of the straps or even open my mouth. So he got my camera and took a picture of me up there on the sky. It is the only picture I have of my paragliding moment not taken by me, the somewhat paralyzed passenger. It shows me with an astonished half smile, my invisible heart pounding noiselessly somewhere.

So I went paragliding once, and I remember it well. It will be a memory, not to be replaced by a second try.

Maribel Ongpin is not a person who hems and haws. She is clear about what she will stand up for and she does not hesitate to voice strong opinions, no matter how unpopular. She approaches the search for adventure just as deliberately and fearlessly.

Time traveler

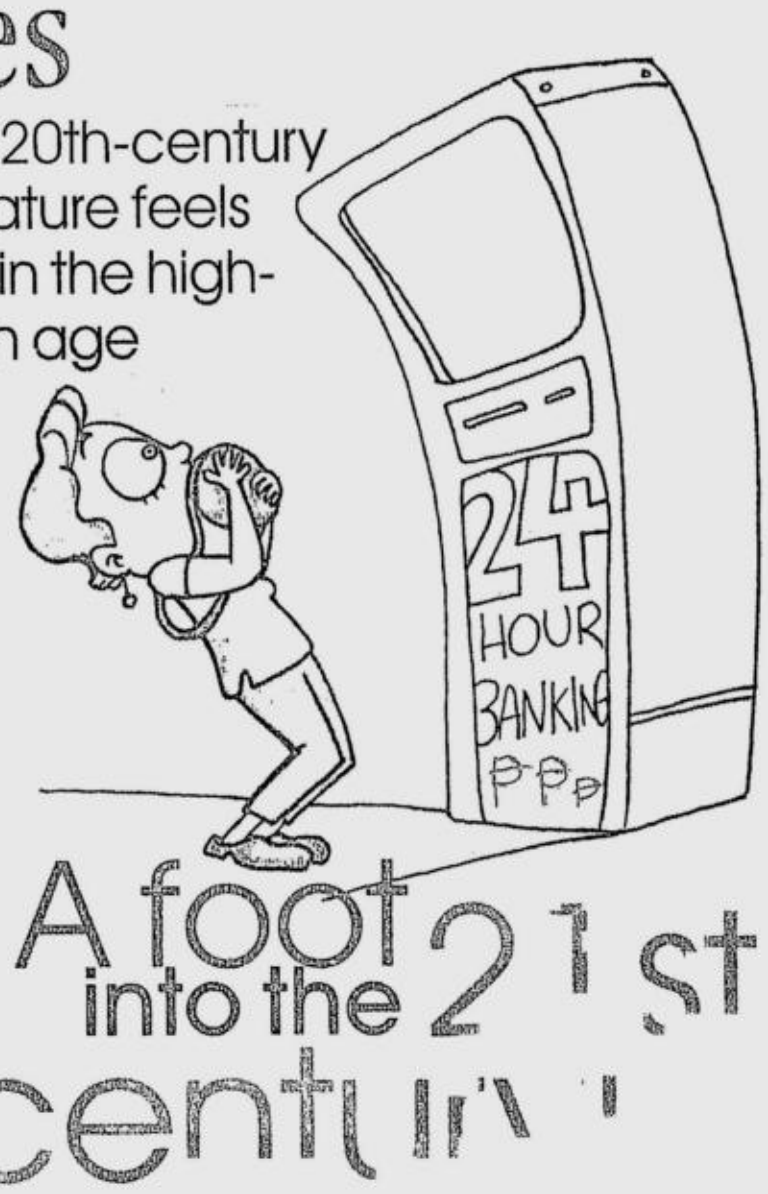
Susan Calo Medina is old enough to be confident and young enough to want more

SUSAN Calo Medina didn't even blink at the prospect of trekking up to the summit of a mountain. Sixty-something is just a number, after all, and going all over the country to shoot videos for her weekly show "Travel Time" has kept her fit. But—she does work at it.

When in town, she does [illegible] lates three times a week, 45 minutes on a cardio machine five days a week, and 15 minutes of weight training for her arms and legs every other day.

When asked what she felt about reaching this season of her life, her unhesitating response was: "I'm happy to be old enough to have done most of the things I've wanted to do, but still young enough to know there's more I can do. I'm old enough to know when to be content and when to let go but still young enough to want more."

sives



A foot into the 21st century

This 20th-century creature feels lost in the high-tech age

By Nening Pedrosa Manahan
Contributor

OH! SIGH, SIGH! I have the reputation of being the lowest low-tech among my low-tech friends, which is why our eminent editor, Mert, asked me to do this piece.

Don't laugh now, but my first encounter with new technology was the Betamax machine. It took me a good month to master that machine!! And don't talk to me about DVDs. I wait for my children or grandchildren (for shame!) to put on whatever it is they want me to watch.

Many years ago, at lunch with friends, they spoke of a new way of banking: getting cash without cashing a check and depositing money without a teller. I was not listening, why bother, I could get a check encashed, and deposit into the children's savings accounts in less than 10 minutes at my favorite bank.

Then one day, on my way home from the province, I was asked by a friend who had to stay behind, to deposit a sizeable amount of cash in her bank which just happened to be very close to my home. I got to the bank and it was closed.

Then I noticed a sign "24-hour banking" on top of an open door, and just beside it, a security guard looking at me curiously. "Oh, this must be that new way to bank!" I thought. So in I went.

ILLUSTRATIONS STEPH BRAVO

New banking

The guard noticed that I didn't quite know what to do, so, very helpfully handed me a deposit slip which I filled out, gave me a Manila envelop into which I stuffed the cash, then said, "*Yung pong card niyo, kailangan ipasok daw sa* slot."

Pulling out my calling card, because, again, I wasn't quite sure what to do, I started to hand it to him. Then seeing his mouth agape in surprise, eyes popping, I suddenly remembered the girls had mentioned you had to request the bank to issue a plastic card to do this kind of banking! Embarrassed, I ran out of there clutching my envelope, laughing out loud.

When cell phones came on the market, my children decided they wanted to be able to call their peripatetic mother wherever she was, and quickly got me one. Of course I didn't want it, it looked like a time bomb, and how was I to use it, so many buttons to press, and tiny bright lights, and the sounds it made!

After choosing an acceptable tone, I hurried off; I was going to be late for Mass. I did not know that my younger son, Toñico, had followed me, and just before I entered the church, rang me. He still gets a good laugh when he tells the story of how I desperately tried to shut it off. Well, I have finally gotten the hang of it, and can now use a cellphone half asleep. But I'm not giving up my old cell phone, even if my family and friends call it the dinosaur.

Daunting computer

Before the Age of Apple, Microsoft and IBM, I used to do my writing on yellow pad, using sharply sharpened pencils, or balancing a typewriter on my knees in the car.

When Tony got me a computer, I wondered if I would ever use it, it looked so daunting, I was afraid of it. First it looked like it would explode if I pressed the wrong keys, and could swallow up my work, to be lost forever in its bowels.

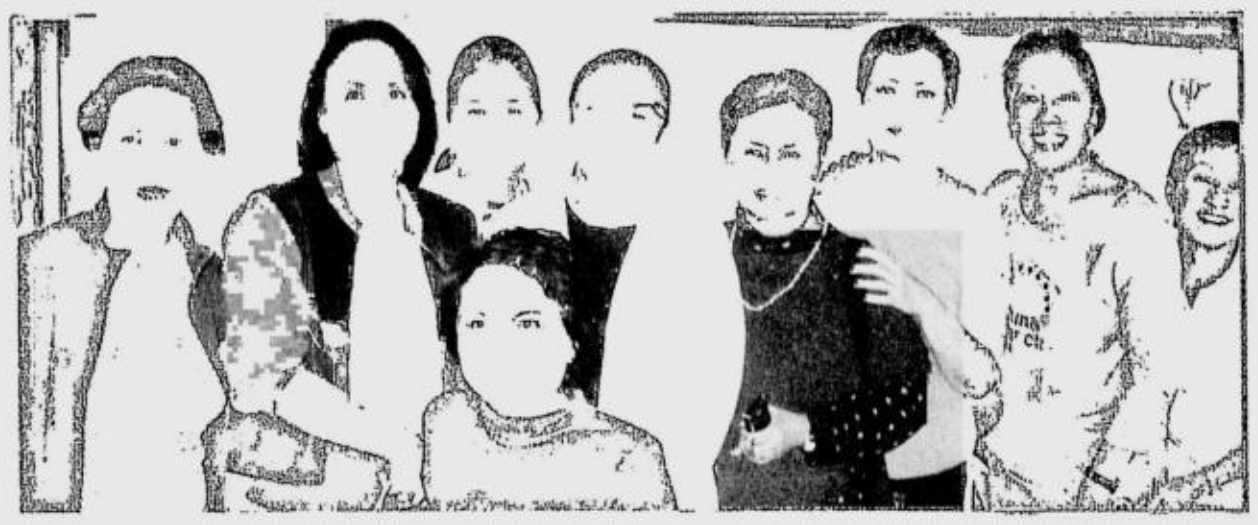
Finally, with the help of my sometimes patient teachers, my children, I started to use the computer. I have had terrifying accidents such as the time I thought I had erased a major essay. I called my oldest boy, Martin, who couldn't stop laughing, and had to hand the phone to his wife, my daughter-in-law Marissa, who quickly found my lost text. But I now have put aside yellow pad and typewriter and do all my writing on the computer. I still have to ask my daughters Didi and Regina for help when, occasionally, I say that my computer acts up or as they both say, "Mom, you didn't save," or "You let your mouse slide!"

My latest learning experience of new technology was early this year with my then 11-year-old granddaughter, Mikee. I was preparing a talk and I was told that, "You have to do a Powerpoint presentation, forget slides and transparencies."

Mikee overheard me wondering, "I don't know how to do that, how can I make a presentation like that?" She said, "Lola, I'll help you. I know how to do Powerpoints" Which she proceeded to do, small baby hands moving between machines!!!

So, truly, this product of the 20th century has just stuck one foot into the 21st century.

Nening Pedrosa Manahan may not be a techie but ask her about oriental ceramics and she can give you a CD full of information on the subject. Ask her also about Assumption College and she can fill you in on the subject—in French. Her other areas of expertise involve water features for gardens and slow-food cooking.



BAGUIO TRIP WITH CLASSMATES ON OUR GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR 2006. Millette Ocampo (seated), Vicky Cruz, Araceli de Leon, Marixi Prieto, Marilou Guingona, Lirio Mapa, Erlinda Torres, Mita Gomez and Linda Mesina

'You're cool, Lolie!'

By Millette Tañada Ocampo
Contributor

WHEN I WAS IN MY 40S, I classified those in their 60s as old. With the exception of some, many seemed like old fogies who had gone over the hill too early, restrained by parameters that narrowed their lifestyles.

Perhaps it had something to do with looks. Hair dyeing was not embraced then as it is now and silver strands did not belie their age. They were less into exercise, fitness, diet and fashion. Perhaps that is why they seemed older.

I wondered what life would be like when I turned 60. So even then I decided that given good health and reasonable blessings, I would continue to live an active and loving life with my family, carry on with my modest export business, continue with my civic involvement, hang out with friends and siblings, travel far and near, dance or perhaps write, and engage in new pursuits. All these to keep my gait light and balanced and my mind open and uncluttered. An active 60 is what I wanted to be.

Turning 60 was no big deal; I didn't even feel my age. Yet when I came across a brand of young-looking tops sized for the fuller 60s that called itself Miss Sixty, I immediately connected.

It had a message that spoke to me. It said, "Look, young at 60!" So I picked three, tried them on and ended up with one. The one that made me look 16 times three plus four. Or so I thought.

Happy advantage

The happy advantage of turning 60 is getting your senior citizen card. In the beginning when I would flash my card to get that coveted discount, I almost looked forward to hearing this question: "Wow Ma'am, 60 *na ho kayo?*" I knew I would enjoy the compliment more than the discount.

> After one has survived the deathly blow of losing the steadying and happy company of a husband, when the colors of life have slowly returned, then life is good once more

When I dine with my siblings, classmates, gang and ladies from different groups which unavoidably increase with age, it's fun and comforting to see everyone fish for their cards almost simultaneously. One is indeed among kindred spirits. There is absolutely no self-consciousness about age as we brandish our cards at the waiter. Waiting for one's turn to autograph the receipt has begun to acquire an element of routine.

But certainly there is reluctance when I am in the company of women a generation younger, with slimmer waists and firmer thighs and who wear towering heels with ease—but who in turn are secretly wishing they had my discount card.

Having this card in my possession, I have found a new thrill in spontaneous solo flights to the movies. Overcoming my awkwardness at being unescorted, I now find it cool to head to the movies alone for free, on a whim, with only a bag of popcorn for company. And when the movie is good I come out with a grin, my spirits lifted from everyday doldrums.

Life in my 60s has remained almost the same, but somehow there has been a mellowing. Perhaps one has become wiser, kinder and more forgiving, having seen more of life and having arrived at a better way of praying.

Ambivalent feelings

My feelings are ambivalent. Sometimes, I want to be carefree, at other times I am more reflective. One day I am bursting with energy, then out of the blue I feel the uncomfortable stirrings of petty aches weighing down my knees or coursing up my shoulders.

There are more colors in the vitamins I gulp down and more variety of creams for my eyes, age spots and creases. My ears open wide and flap like crazy when talk centers on the science of rejuvenation, and my heart races likewise when talk of death arrives.

Life is good when children and grandchildren come for our Sunday lunches; when, like a flock of birds, they greet me with big hugs or little pecks on the cheek and one would perch on my lap; when family ties are tight and "*decada*" friends are near; when involvement is meaningful and when one has learned to believe.

Realizations are made at each decade of life, and after one has survived the deathly blow of losing the steadying and happy company of a husband, when the colors of life have slowly returned, then life is good once more.

Not too long ago after some interaction with my grandchildren, an older *apo* told me, "You're cool, Lolie!" That's good enough for me.

Millette Tañada Ocampo is a widow with six children and nine grandchildren. She is president of Manila Handicraft & Marketing Corp. and is a board member of Petnet Western Union and the Assumption Alumnae Association. She's also a member of W3 and the San Antonio JPIC Scholarship Committee.

IN A HIGH SCHOOL CLASS REUNION at the home of Gretchen Cojuangco. (Seated) Marilou T. Guingona, Deday Baretto, Mercedes Arroyo, Vicky Cruz, Millette Ocampo, Ines Villarreal, Letty Laurel, Cecilia Ramos, Gretchen Cojuangco, Marilyn Pardo, Cleona Lopez and Lydia Aquino. (Standing) Baby Lim, Mila Puyat, Sony Sabino, Caring Hizon, Cora Leaño, Nena Tinsay, Ruby Prescila, Vina Mercado, Pinky del Rosario and Lirio Mapa

'RESIDENTIAL PARK' CONCEPT FULFILLS FILIPINOS' DREAM COMMUNITY AT PRAMANA

The vibrant town of Sta. Rosa in Laguna has since emerged as a viable address for Filipino families looking for a suburban home that is accessible to urban conveniences - thanks in huge part to Greenfield Development Corporation (Greenfield for short) which has fulfilled the vision of a thriving mixed-use community composed of retail, office, residential and industrial components.

This year, Greenfield is finally launching Pramana - the first residential component of the 300-hectare mega complex that's situated in the heart of Sta. Rosa. Soon, professionals working at the nearby industrial and commercial areas, along with surrounding areas as far as Southern Manila, can find a suitable home within this 80-hectare community that will redefine the concept of suburban living.

Duane Santos, Executive Vice President of Greenfield declared that Pramana will stand out for its exceptional proposition a residential community that is actually located within a park, filled with lots of lush greenery, charming parks and playgrounds

"Other developments can only promise to provide a park inside their village. With Pramana, it's actually a community that's found inside the park. More than half of the development will be devoted to open spaces and greenery, parks and playgrounds and tree-lined roads. In essence this is what makes Pramana a residential park community. No other developer can make such a claim." Santos said

Pramana was designed to provide the needs of their market, Santos added, a masterplan achieved at after careful quantitative and qualitative research. "We found out that our market is looking for more greenery around their property. It's actually the compelling reason that will convince them to buy a home - a refreshing, natural environment where they can raise their family and enjoy a wholesome, serene lifestyle," he said.

Upon entering the community, residents will find streets lined with majestic trees, a plethora of verdant parks with inter-connected jogging paths, tastefully-designed common amenities, and homes characterized by a modern Asian theme

"We don't want to be confined to just one influence from cultures like Balinese or Japanese. At Pramana, homes will feature its own Asian look which puts together various aspects of Asian culture. This will be accomplished through the use of indigenous materials like stone which will coat the façade of homes. There will also be a lot of tropical plants everywhere for that invigorating, lush effect," Santos noted.

Pramana is part of the Greenfield City project in Sta Rosa - a mixed-use community composed of industrial, commercial and residential components which has spurred growth in this area since 1998. With the fully developed Greenfield Auto Park and Sta. Rosa Business Park, along with the popular Paseo de Sta Rosa, the stage is set for the first residential component which is Pramana. "Pramana is a five-phase, low density residential development, and right now we're doing Phase 1, which occupies 10 hectares and is fully developed. Greenfield is one of the pioneering developers who actually developed a project first before selling There was no pre-selling on our part. All the roads and facilities were built in Phase 1 and all the lots were titled and ready for construction before we actually started selling. We wanted to develop the property first, to show the market what we can do," Santos said.

Unit sizes will range from 150 sqm 250 sqm for houses. Lots are available at 144 sqm to 300 sqm. Prices are competitive with other developments, to ensure that their target of upper middle-income families can afford to purchase a property here.

"This will be a fence-free community, the objective of which is to make sure that the lawns of each home form part of the landscape of the whole property. As one is driving through the community the greeneries come out. It really elicits a park-like feel for residents and guests to appreciate," Santos said.

Going forward, Santos said Greenfield foresees more families moving address to Sta. Rosa, especially with the continuing growth of Metro Manila and the expansion of the South Luzon Expressway. "Pramana will be their primary home, because it will be very accessible. After the completion of the South Luzon Expressway, the trip from Sta. Rosa to Manila will take less than 45 minutes. We're predicting a lot of the family-oriented, environment-conscious residents to be moving South, rather than living in the cramped environment of Manila. They want to take advantage of the cleaner air particularly to benefit their children."

The enduring progress of the CALABARZON area will likewise improve living conditions for Filipinos who will locate to the South. Almost a decade ago, Greenfield has already predicted such growth; on the other hand, these developments should also be attributed to the company with a forward-looking vision to provide the benchmark for a carefully masterplanned and sustainable property development specifically suited to the 21st-century needs of the Filipino.

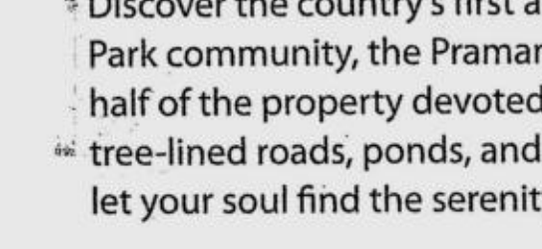
Greenfield's heritage of Greenfield City for the Filipino people can perhaps best sum up the definition of Pramana. Santos explained: "Pramana is a Hindu term which stands for the means of obtaining wisdom. After all the hard work has been completed, one can only arrive at a relaxed state of mind where you can deduce all the knowledge that has guided your experience. Likewise, living in Pramana offers an invigorating community where residents can relax and meditate while enjoying a harmonious lifestyle. And yes, that can only lead to more wisdom."

To know more about Pramana and Greenfield Development Corporation, please call 420-8003 or (049) 541-2845 You may also email marketing@greenfield.com.ph or visit. www.greenfield.com.ph

Discover the country's first and only Residential Park community, the Pramana. With more than half of the property devoted to wide-open spaces, tree-lined roads, ponds, and meditation gardens, let your soul find the serenity its been seeking.

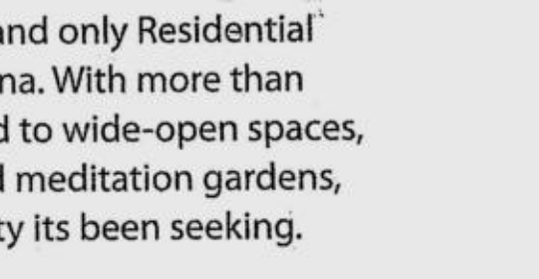
Nestled in Greenfield City, Sta Rosa, Laguna - The Pramana is a quiet refuge from the busy metro.

Commune with nature, find your peace, and strike a balance with the here and now at the Pramana Residential Park.



Experience Asian Culture

Signature peaked roofs, wood and natural stone characterize every Pramana home.



Parks and Gardens

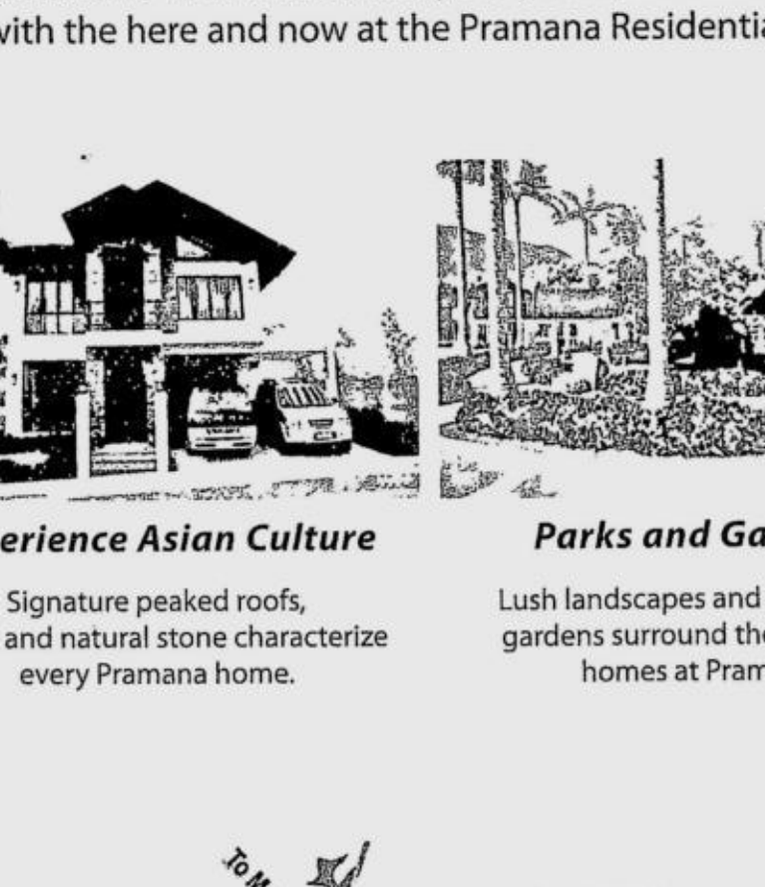
Lush landscapes and manicured gardens surround the residents' homes at Pramana.

Be Nurtured by Nature

More than 50% of the development is devoted to parks, ponds, gazebos, and walkways.

Unobstructed Views

View corridors allow residents to enjoy the park-like environment from a number of areas in the village.



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November 7-9: DLS - College of St. Benilde Job Fair
November 15-21: Trinoma (*2/F near Food Choices*)

Applicants can walk in on Monday (Oct. 29) at our Makati and Alabang sites.

**Applicants can come in casual attire from August - October.*

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Arcenas Estate,
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(032) 416-5810

CEBU ASIATOWN IT PARK OFFICE
11/F i2 Bldg.
Asiatown IT Park,
Lahug, Cebu City
(032) 411 - 9200

COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
2/F Diliman Commercial Center,
#46 Don Mariano Marcos Ave.
Diliman, Quezon City
(02) 756-7019

MAKATI OFFICE
Convergys One, 6796
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Legaspi Village, Makati City
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- Experience in Sales / customer service is an advantage
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- Good English and Spanish conversational skills
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ACCENT TRAINER

- Graduate of any four year course preferably in the field of Social Science or certification on Training Design and Delivery
- With at least 6 months experience as a CSR in an international account or relevant experience in teaching the English language
- Computer literate (Word, Excel, Power Point)
- Facilitation and presentation skills
- Above average English communication skills
- Ability to design training programs and conduct training needs analysis is an advantage

RESOURCE PLANNING MANAGER

- Graduate of any 4-year course, preferably Industrial Engineering, Computer Science, BS Math or Statistics
- With problem solving, analytical, and conceptual skills
- At least 2 years experience in a position of similar nature
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RECRUITMENT AND STAFFING MANAGER

- Degree in Behavioral Science, Psychology, Business Administration and other related disciplines.
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The candidate filling this wide-ranging position will set the editorial direction, tone, and vision in tandem with the publisher, and will coordinate content generation across multiple media formats while improving content quality.

This is a hands-on role in which the Editor will:

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  - ➢ Research and write original content for the website, including managing and contributing to other forms of online media (e.g. blogs, forums, etc.).
  - ➢ Supervise editorial work by more junior editors, freelance web writers, & interns
  - ➢ Be accountable for increasing traffic into the website.
  - ➢ Analyze data to evaluate success of editorial programs
  - ➢ Report and write original content, including revision and creation of product copy
  - ➢ Create and oversee project plans for the successful production of content

Qualifications:

- ❑ Experience creating and editing articles about special occasions such as weddings, bridal shower parties, and other related events. This can also pertain to the party planning scene, fashion, decorating, and/or lifestyle arena.
  - ➢ At least 2 yrs. of notable writing experience and at least 1 of which have been in an online environment would be a plus.
  - ➢ Experience managing writers (leadership role) in a team setting
  - ➢ Stellar editorial skills, especially line editing
  - ➢ Keen eye for details and esthetics for layout and design
  - ➢ Highly collaborative nature and spirit
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UNDP GEF

Philippine Efficient Lighting Market Transformation Program

The PELMAT Project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Department of Energy (DOE) is in search of qualified candidates for the post of Task Specialist for Policy and Environmental Management (TS-PEM), Administrative Assistant (AA), Science Research Specialist (SRS) and Laboratory Technician (LT) to be based at the DOE Office in Taguig City. The PELMATP is intended to address the barriers to widespread utilization of energy efficient lighting (EEL) systems in the Philippines.

1. Policy and Environmental Management Specialist Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance.

Responsible in providing technical inputs, as well as administrative, to the PMO on various activities of the project specifically on the aspects of policies and environmental management. He/she will coordinate logistics, monitor the conduct of the activities according to specified/agreed timetable, evaluate the outputs and outcomes of the activities, and provide recommendations to address the activity level for the following components of PELMATP: EEL Policies, Standards and Guidelines Enhancement Program (Component 1) and EEL Systems Waste Management Assistance Program (Component 5). He/she shall assist the Project Manager in formulating strategies towards the institutionalization and long-term sustainability of the above-mentioned PELMATP Project components. He/she shall also be responsible for ensuring adherence to the prescribed management criteria (e.g., approved terms of reference, contractual obligations, quality control, etc.) is followed in the execution of the activities under the above-cited project components. He/she will also be responsible in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these activities according to prescribed procedures. Specific activities include the following:

- Regular reporting to Project Manager on the status of project activities vis-à-vis target outputs;
- Synthesis of the activities and outputs of consultants and subcontractors involved in the said Project Components and provision of assistance in management of project risks;
- Provision of technical inputs during the conduct of annual advisory group meetings and the quarterly TWG meetings and in the preparation of quarterly financial/project progress reports; and,
- Provision of technical inputs in the preparation of annual project report/project implementation review (APR/PIR) reports and others as required by the UNDP.

Qualification and Experience
- Bachelor's Degree in engineering, public administration, business management, environmental science and economics, preferably with Master's Degree in the same or any other relevant field.
- Minimum 5 years experience in energy policy making and planning (including environmental management) and energy efficient technologies, particularly efficient lighting systems;
- Proven track record in project management such as in meeting deadlines, timely submission of acceptable deliverables, etc;
- Excellent English communication skills, both written and verbal;
- With good appreciation of and strong links with relevant sectors in the lighting industry; and
- With satisfactory skills on the use of office software packages such as MS Word, Excel and Power Point.

2. Administrative Assistant Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance; directly supervised by Project Director.

Responsible for providing administrative support to the operations for the PMO to ensure the smooth functioning of administrative systems under the Project. His/her specific responsibilities are as follows:

- Assists the Administrative Officer in establishing the administrative systems and procedures consistent with UNDP's national execution mode, in the form of a Manual, for the guidance of project staff, consultants and subcontractors;
- Assists the Administrative Officer in carrying out various administrative activities; reviews and controls procurement processes.
- Assists in developing and maintaining a records filing and retrieval system;
- Maintains an active file of all personnel, consultants and subcontractors under the project;
- Prepares and consolidates the travel plan, and procurement plan for the project;
- Prepares procurement requirements of the project, in accordance with UNDP guidelines;
- Prepares and maintains an updated inventory of all supplies and equipment;
- Makes arrangements for the logistical requirements in training, workshops, and other Project activities; and
- Assists the project staff, consultants and other project players in various administrative matters, whenever necessary.

Qualification and Experience
- Bachelor's Degree in business management or any relevant field.
- At least two years experience as administrative staff in foreign-assisted projects preferable UNDP-GEF project;
- Knowledgeable in modern office administration specifically in management of office documents and papers;
- Knowledgeable in inventory control and procurement procedures; and
- With satisfactory skills on the use of office software packages such as MS Project; Good interpersonal and communication skills.

3. Science Research Specialist Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance.

Provide necessary administrative and technical support to the operations of Lighting and Appliances Testing Laboratory, particularly in the aspects of EEL systems testing as prescribed in Component 2 – EEL Application Institutional and Technical Capacity Development of PELMATP. His/her specific responsibilities are as follows:

- Receive, schedule, track and dispose test samples;
- Assist in the preparation of laboratory test reports;
- Assist in the updating and implementation of the laboratory's quality system;
- Assist in the operation and maintenance of testing facilities;
- Assist in the conduct of research/study/information dissemination, preparation of reports related to energy efficiency improvements of lighting;
- Assist in data gathering/information of energy standards compliance for various lighting products;
- Handle the collection and remittance of testing fees; and
- Prepare/submit accomplishment reports.

Qualification/Experience
- Bachelor's Degree in engineering, preferably an Electrical Engineering graduate;
- Relevant work experience is an advantage;
- With satisfactory skills on the use of office software packages such as MS Word and Excel; and
- Good interpersonal and communication skills.

4. Laboratory Technician Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance

Provide necessary technical support to the operations of Lighting and Appliances Testing Laboratory, particularly in the aspects of EEL systems testing as prescribed in Component 2 – EEL Application Institutional and Technical Capacity Development of PELMATP His/her specific responsibilities are as follows:

- Assist in the receipt, inspection, preparation, installation, dismantling, storage and disposal of test samples consistent with the laboratory quality system;
- Assist in the requisition/procurement of laboratory supplies and equipment maintenance parts;
- Maintain laboratory area clean and orderly; and
- Prepare/submit accomplishment report.

Qualification/Experience
- At least a two (2) years vocational course or at least 2nd year college;
- Relevant work experience is an advantage
- Good interpersonal and communication skills.

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before November 9, 2007. Address applications to the PELMATP Project, Human Resource Department, Department of Energy, Energy Center, Meritt Road, Taguig, Metro Manila This advertisement shall remain posted in www.doe.gov.ph until November 9, 2007.

FILINVEST

UNLOCK THE DOOR TO GREATER FORTUNE!

JOIN ONE OF THE LEADING REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS IN THE INDUSTRY TODAY.

Filinvest, thru Filinvest Land and Filinvest Alabang, is a full range property developer with an impressive portfolio of real estate landmarks covering all sectors of the industry.

From the best value communities for affordable, middle income and high end markets as well as farm estates and township developments, to condominium buildings and retail and commercial units, Filinvest has a number of dynamic environments that will help you reach professional success.

Filinvest has projects in key areas like **Alabang, Quezon City, Rizal, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna and Bulacan.** In line with our expansion program, we need high-caliber candidates like you for the following positions.

SALES MANAGERS (Code: MB-07 SM)
- 25-45 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably from top colleges and universities
- Excellent communication, negotiation and leadership skills
- At least 2 years management experience preferably in real estate/retail industry

SALES CONSULTANTS (Code: MB-07 SC)
- 21-35 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably from top colleges and universities
- Excellent communication and presentation skills
- Experience in real estate/consumer sales is an advantage
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

SALES MANAGERS for Commercial Lots (Code: MB-07 SMCL)
- Male or Female, 30-45 years old
- South based — Familiar with Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Parañaque and Calabarzon areas
- Presentable and confident with good communication, presentation and negotiation skills
- With at least 2 to 3 years sales management experience in administering real estate selling units or managing real estate brokers, or handling/managing real estate customer accounts and other real estate related industries

SIX GREAT REASONS TO JOIN US!
- ✓ Financial strength and stability of Filinvest
- ✓ An established name and distinguished performance record in real estate development
- ✓ Above-average compensation, benefits and incentives
- ✓ Job security
- ✓ Career advancement
- ✓ Extensive training

Applicants may bring their resumes, transcript of records and 2x2 pictures to:

HR Department Filinvest Alabang, Inc.
Marketing Office and Exhibit Centre, Corporate Ave.,
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. No.: 809-6517 local 214
look for **GIAN MENDOZA**

Filinvest Land, Inc. 173 P. Gomez St. San Juan City
Tel. No.: 727-0431 local 213
look for **MARICHELLE SALANGUIT**

you may also email your resume to:
recruitment@filinvestcorpcity.com
(Please indicate position applied for, desired work location and job code on the cover letter or in the "Subject" of your email.)

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637-2547 Pasig
Unit 2, 4/F Bloomingdale Plaza
Shaw Blvd., Bo. Kapitolyo
(near PAG-IBIG/in front of SSS)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

CIVIL ENGINEER/ ESTIMATOR
- w/ 2-3 years experience
- w/ license is an advantage
- must be 25 years old & above

Please submit resumé at: 727 Laguna Ext., Tondo, Manila or call 253-9934 / 2513656 look for Kaye or Jo

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CCF PHILIPPINES

An International NGO working for the well-being of children is currently seeking development professionals for a grant-assisted child labor education initiative

PROJECT OFFICER

The Project Officer will be accountable in coordinating capacity building activities and in undertaking monitoring and evaluation in grant-covered areas. He/She will assist the Project Manager in ensuring that required deliverables by donors and CCF are accomplished.

Specifically, the Project Officer will:

1. Coordinate the implementation of standardized capacity building activities for project staff and community stakeholders.
2. Assist the Project Manager in monitoring the implementation of the grant-assisted project, in reviewing and ensuring that deviations from work plans are documented and prior approval obtained, and in evaluating project performance to ensure that donor requirements are met.
3. Coordinate with the Grant Accountant and Finance and Admin Assistants in monitoring the flow of funds, in ensuring appropriate charging of project expenses, and in reviewing and processing cash advances, requests and liquidation reports submitted by area offices/field staff and project affiliates.
4. Consolidate, analyze, prepare and submit monitoring and evaluation reports to the Project Manager quarterly or as needed, on the grant-assisted project as input to making donor-related decisions and plans, and ensure proper documentation of project activities, accomplishments, success stories, issues and concerns
5. Join the Project Manager or represent CCF in consortium meetings and development networks to enhance linkages /partnerships.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- University degree in Social Science, Community Development or related field
- At least two years meaningful and progressive experience in community development work and project management cycle
- Considerable experience in training, project monitoring and evaluation preferred

PROVINCIAL EDUCATION OFFICER (PEO)

The PEO will be accountable in the overall implementation of the grant-assisted project in his/her assigned area. He/She will undertake project activities that will ensure the accomplishment of required deliverables by donors and CCF.

Specifically, the PEO will:

1. Participate in planning workshops for the area office, undertake consultation sessions with local partners/project-co-implementers to finalize area work plans, and prepare annual and monthly implementation plans for review and approval by the Project Manager.
2. Implement project activities in accordance with approved work plans and donor guidelines and requirements, and analyze and provide explanation for variances as per work plans.
3. Undertake community organizing activities, focusing on capacity-building of stakeholders to be able to sustain the project after project completion.
4. Conduct regular visits to project-covered communities and schools to monitor the education and work status of assisted children, the activities of organized groups, and funds utilization.
5. Submit monthly accomplishment reports, and other periodic reports, including finance and administration related reports, following required format and submission schedules from CCF and donor, and document project success stories and articles of special interest for submission to the donor/CCF.
6. Undertake records management and ensure completion and proper organization of all project files including finance and administration related records.
7. Represent CCF in local development networks to enhance linkages/partnerships and for continuing opportunity search for donors and grants sourcing, and initiate and formalize partnerships with local stakeholders and participates in major advocacy and capacity building activities.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- University degree in Social Science, Community Development or related field
- At least two years meaningful and progressive experience in development work and project management cycle; strong community organizing background preferred
- Willing to be based in the Visayas

Interested applicants may send their application letter addressing the position criteria outlined here together with a detailed Curriculum Vitae with 3 references and contact details to **ccfno@ccfphilippines.org.ph** not later than November 5, 2007. Due to the volume of applications we receive, we shall contact short listed applicants only.

ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
ERDB Bldg. Forestry Campus, College Laguna 4031, Philippines
www.aseanbiodiversity.org

Job Advertisement

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) is a newly established intergovernmental organization aiming to become a center for coordinating the regional effort towards sustainable management of biodiversity resources in the ASEAN region.

Based at the ACB Headquarters located in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines, ACB is seeking dynamic, innovative and committed candidates for the following positions:

1) **Head, Finance and Administration** – Provide support, reports and information needed by the technical units to implement their programs and pursue the operations of the Centre; supervise and direct the Centre's day-to-day financial operations; perform the Centre's operations and administration; supervise the Finance and Administration Unit staff. He/she shall be a national of any ASEAN Member Countries, have at least 10 years of relevant and progressively responsible experience in logistical, financial, administrative and human resources aspects of an international organization as well as experience in working with governments, stakeholders and various interests groups; with NO PAST or PENDING criminal or civil cases; He/she shall have an advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in Business Administration, Finance, Management, Public Administration, Industrial/Management Engineering or any related fields.
2) **Bookkeeper** – He/she shall prepare the monthly financial statements and other management reports in the preparation of audited financial statements; prepare foreign exchange currency rates and current per diem rates for budgeting and issue of per diems; process transactions through the preparation of appropriate disbursement voucher, journal voucher, purchase order/contract, purchase request including the propriety of supporting documentation; monitor and maintain an updated report on accounting of funds; He/she shall be a national of any ASEAN Member Countries, have at least one (1) year of relevant experience in bookkeeping or financial assistance in an international organization; He/she must have a degree on Accountancy or any related field; newly graduates will be considered if with exceptional qualifications.
3) **Programmer (Part time or full time)** – He/she shall handle programming and modify existing programs as required; assist in overall system implementation as a project member; provide technical and procedural guidance to end-users; He/she must have a degree on Computer Engineering, Computer Science or other related disciplines or the equivalent of specialized experience and appropriate education with skills on PHP/JAVA, MYSQL, LINUX; knowledge in Systems Analysis and Design, Accounting Systems, Quickbooks is an advantage; newly graduates with high scholastic records are encouraged to apply.

Interested applicants are advised to visit http://www.aseanbiodiversity.org/jobs, for further details on eligibility and documentary requirements for these posts. Deadline for submission of completed application is on **10 November 2007**. Applications entered after the said date will not be considered. Only short-listed applicants will be given due notice. Previous applicants to these posts may apply again.

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For positions listed below, kindly email your resumé to **philippinecorpjobs@peoplesupport.com** indicate position in the subject line.

ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES
Office Manager (Baguio)
Safety and Security Associate

BUSINESS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT
Sr. Analyst for Business Process Improvement (Six Sigma Greenbelt)
Sr. Manager for Business Process Improvement (Six Sigma Blackbelt)

FINANCE
Accounting Assistant (Employee Transactions/Accounts Receivable)
Accounting Assistant (Fixed Asset)
Accounting Associate (Accounts Payable)
Accounting Associate (Financial Reporting and Analysis)
Financial Analyst
Revenue Analyst
Risk Management Officer
Tax Analyst
Timekeeping Analyst (Cebu)

HUMAN RESOURCES
Corporate Recruitment Associate
Corporate Recruitment Officer
HR Assistant – Compensation and Benefits
HR Assistant – Organizational Development
HR Assistant – Recruitment (Baguio)
HR Associate – Compensation and Benefits (Cebu)
Recruitment Director

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Data Quality Manager
Database Administrator
Desktop Supervisor
HRMS Database Administrator
Reports Analyst/Developer
Senior Business Analyst
Senior Software Engineer
Server Systems Specialist (Cebu)

OPERATIONS
Operations Manager for Technical Account (Cebu)
Team Supervisor for Technical Account (Cebu)
Transcription Editor (Cebu)

TRAINING
Career Development Trainer
Communication Trainer (Cebu)
Leadership Development Training Manager
Senior Management Development Trainer

WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT
Realtime Analyst
Workforce Analyst
Workforce Director/Manager

PeopleSupport is currently in search for eRep Professionals in the following fields:

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manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

Cebu City
PeopleSupport Cebu
e-Office 1, AsiaTown IT Park
Monday to Saturday,
9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222
cebu@peoplesupport.com

Baguio City
PeopleSupport Baguio
SM Fiesta Strip Building,
Harrison Road, Baguio City
baguiojobs@peoplesupport.com

Davao City
B-1 Luisa Avenue Square,Jacinto Extension
Monday to Saturday, 9:00am to 6:00pm
HR Hotline: (082) 227-9301
davaojobs@peoplesupport.com

PEOPLESUPPORT

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ROHM ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC.

We are expanding for our Test Engineering Group!!!

- **Listed in the TOP 50 Corporations in the Philippines**
- **A consistent Outstanding Exporter Award recipient for 3 years by PEZA**
- **Almost 18 years of stable operation in the Philippines**
- **With more than 3,300 talented employees**

Join us in our urgent manpower hiring for the following positions:

Engineering Graduates (50)

Graduate in BSECE, BSEE, BSIE or BSCoE, not over 25 years old. Familiarity in Test Eng'g functions or PCB design is an advantage, but not required. Graduate in BSME, can also apply to work in the Maintenance or Equipment Eng'g Dept. Available to work immediately.

Section Chief (10)

Graduate in BSME/BSECE/BSEE/BSIE/BSCOE with hands on experience in Management & Supervision gained from manufacturing environment, with strong leadership potential, between 24~33 years old.

Specialists

Graduate in BS Accountancy, CPA license an advantage, BS/AB Psychology, BS Industrial Eng'g with relevant work experience in manufacturing environment. The candidate shall be assigned in any of the ff. areas: Accounting, Human Resources or Production Control.

Job Fair schedules are as follows:

October 30 & 31, 2007 (Tue & Wed) 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
Michael's RACS, Paseo de Sta. Rosa
Sta. Rosa, Laguna

November 7 & 8, 2007 (Wed & Thu) 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Executive Room – 4/F Metropolis Star
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

Applicants are requested to apply personally with resume, transcript of records and calculator for immediate assessment.

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- **PRODUCT DEMONSTRATOR (SM Branch assignment)**
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- **ACCOUNTING STAFF**
- **MARKETING STAFF/ TRAINER**
- **ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN**
- **GRAPHIC ARTIST**

Must be:
- College Graduate
- With background experience
- Computer literate
- Below 30 years old

Apply at:
4th Floor, EDMARK Bldg.
#355 P. Tuazon Blvd.
Corner 21st Ave., Cubao, QC
Tel. No. : 913-1324
E-mail : **hrd@edmarker.com**

1. OPERATION MANAGER

- 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS AN OPERATION MANAGER
- KNOW HOW TO SPEAK KOREAN LANGUAGE
- ABILITY TO WORK ON PROBLEM WHERE ANALYSIS OF SITUATION REQUIRE
- 30 TO 40 YEARS OLD
- MALE

2. MECHANICAL ENGINEER

- 5 TO 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A MECHANICAL ENGINEER IN CONSTRUCTION
- 30 TO 40 YEARS OLD
- KNOW HOW TO SPEAK KOREAN LANGUAGE
- COLLEGE GRADUATE

QUALIFIED APPLICANT MAY APPLY AT:

KT GLOBAL SUBIC INC.
15-18 SUBIC COMMERCIAL LIGHT AND INDUSTRIAL PARK
SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE

Oxfam

Oxfam is an international humanitarian, development and campaigning agency working with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering

Oxfam's Philippines Programme needs a

Humanitarian Programme Coordinator

Based in Manila, the Philippines

The postholder will lead and manage a country team to develop and implement strategies to reduce poor people's risks to disasters, develop the capacity and preparedness of Oxfam GB (Great Britain) and its partners in the Philippines to respond to emergencies in a timely, proportionate, professionally competent and gender-sensitive manner, directly lead and manage emergency responses, advocate for positive change in disaster management policies and practices, and be part of Oxfam's group of disaster management practitioners.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead in developing the humanitarian strategy, planning and programme development
- Lead and manage the programme's implementation including emergency responses, ensuring its quality and impact and that it addresses gender inequality
- Lead and manage programme monitoring and evaluations, ensuring that learning happens in the process
- Represent Oxfam GB to relevant groups

THE PERSON

- A humanitarian practitioner with at least 5 years of comprehensive experience in delivering gender-responsive humanitarian programmes. We are looking for a person with a solid understanding of humanitarian as well as development work, who has experience in participatory approaches and in developing the capacity of others in preparedness, response and advocacy. The person we are looking for would have education in the humanitarian, development or management fields. We would consider solid experience as a substitute for this educational qualification but not vice versa.
- A leader who can analyze and think strategically, clearly and motivate multi-cultural teams
- A manager who is adept at project cycle management, has a proven record in fundraising and in managing contracts and budgets
- A representative of the humanitarian programme who can communicate in fluent written and spoken English and willing to travel frequently for extended periods to remote areas in the Philippines and overseas

Desirable skills:

- Facilitation and coaching skills
- Ability to train others in disaster preparedness/emergency response
- Fluency in any major Philippine language

We offer a fixed term contract for 24 months, a competitive salary and benefits. Application closes on 16 November 2007.

Interested applicants should submit application letter and CV to:

The Human Resources Manager
OXFAM GREAT BRITAIN
95-A Malumanay Street
Teacher's Village, Diliman, Quezon City 1101
FAX: (+63 2) 927-0499 email: etadeo@oxfam.org.uk

Interview dates are on 11 and 12 December 2007. Only shortlisted applicants will be informed.

CEBU DAILY NEWS — INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Cebu Daily News, an affiliate of Philippine Daily Inquirer is in need of additional dynamic talents to share their different areas of expertise in a news organization:

COPY EDITOR

We are looking for word smiths with:

- Above average skill in written English
- With 3 years editing experience in a news organization
- Critical thinking, accuracy, initiative and creativity
- An appetite for current events and issues
- Wide reading habits
- A commitment to journalism
- Layout and page design skills preferred
- College degree

An ideal candidate must be able to

- work in the evening and holidays
- thrive under the pressure of daily deadlines
- place high value in public service and ethical conduct

FINANCE & ADMIN. ANALYST

Qualifications:

- A graduate of Accounting/Accountancy or any Business related course
- Very good communication skills and interpersonal relations
- Excellent analytical skills & possess high level of integrity
- Willing to learn and adapt new things
- Can work under pressure
- Computer literate and willing to start immediately

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Qualifications:

- At least 1-2 years experience in print/digital design in the scope of advertising for newspapers or in the print media industry
- Very proficient with different computer software programs related to lay-outing and graphic designing (Adobe photoshop, Coreldraw, Pagemaker, etc.)
- Excellent multi-tasking abilities with a positive and flexible attitude
- Can work under pressure and has excellent capacity in beating deadlines.

MARKETING OFFICER

Qualifications:

- Graduate of any Business, Masscom, Marketing, Advertising or its related field
- At least 2 years marketing experience preferably in the field of community publication
- Excellent communication skills and interpersonal relations
- Above average creativity and conceptualizing skills
- At least 2 years Supervisory skills
- A good team player and can work under pressure in a multi-tasking environment
- Computer literate

IT SPECIALIST

Qualifications:

- BS Computer Science, Comp. Eng. or BS Information Technology graduates
- Preferably with knowledge in programming, network, web and software development applications
- Willing to work long hours
- Above average interpersonal and communications skills

If you think you are the candidate we are looking for kindly send your application letter, resumé with recent picture and a photocopy of your transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department
CEBU DAILY NEWS
Kaohsiung Rd corner S. Osmeña St.
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City 6000
or email: **rbermudo@inquirerpublications.ph**

Wanted

Trial Lawyer & Pleader

(*applies for the Pleaders)

- Proficient in written and spoken English and Tagalog*
- has good business etiquette*
- Good moral character*
- Preferably has a working experience however, Newly Graduated Lawyers are welcome as well.
- Computer literate*
- Must be a law Graduate*
- Member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines

For more question and if interested send your resumé to christmelbusinesslink.inc@gmail.com or call and fax it at 812-5298

FILIPINAS PARADISE INC., is a Real Estate Company, selling Residential Lots at Naic, Cavite

We are currently expanding our Sales Force and looking for the following positions:

Property Sales Manager

- College Graduate
- Excellent Leadership and Communication Skills
- Knowledgeable and Creative in Selling
- Highly motivated and Responsible in motivating the Company's Sales Team
- Willing to lead the planning and creating of sales and marketing activities for the Company's Sales Team
- Computer Literate
- Can benefit from commission and incentives schemes

Property Sales Associate

- Preferably College Graduate
- Highly Motivated and Creative in Selling
- Excellent communication skills
- Computer Literate
- Driven to build own sales force

Real Estate Agents/ Real Estate Brokers

- Will sell Residential lots on a commission basis
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PIONEER ST. COR. EDSA, MANDALUYONG CITY

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- HR DIRECTORS
- FINANCIAL ANALYSTS
- PAYROLL SUPERVISORS
- 3D ANIMATORS
- RPG ANALYST PROGRAMMERS
- BUSINESS ANALYSTS
- SOFTWARE QA ANALYSTS
- TECHNICAL WRITERS
- SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS
- SAP CONSULTANTS
- SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATORS
- ORACLE DBAS/DEVELOPERS
- MARKETING MANAGER
- SALES MANAGER
- HELPDESK ANALYSTS
- DESKTOP SUPPORT
- COLDFUSION DEVELOPERS
- FLASH DEVELOPERS
- CADD OPERATORS

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Contract Manager

The US Naval Facilities Engineering command is seeking qualified applicants for the position of service contract project manager at WESMINCOM Zamboanga City, Mindanao. Contract currently encompasses aviation and waterfront operations, dining facility operation, MWR, facilities support. Employment will initially be via annual renewable contract. Qualified applicants will be required to have appropriate clearances and will preferably have had prior military experience. Submit resumé, compensation requirements, and inquiries to: HRO@navfacpacific.us.

Quality Assurance Representative

The US Naval Facilities Engineering command is seeking qualified applicants for the position of quality assurance representative at WESMINCOM Zamboanga City, Mindanao. The position will provide quality assurance for service contracts and construction contracts. Employment will initially be via annual renewable contract. Qualified applicants will be required to have a minimum of a BS in an appropriate engineering curriculum from an accredited university. Submit resumé, compensation requirements, and inquiries to: HRO@navfacpacific.us.

P. J. LHUILLIER GROUP OF COMPANIES

P.J. Lhuillier Group of Companies, a dynamic business company engaged in financial services, retail and trade, and sports recreation, is inviting qualified and competent candidates to fill in key positions in the organization.

MANAGERIAL

Accounting Department Manager (Makati)
- Graduate of B. S. Accountancy, preferably with Master's Degree units
- A Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- With at least five (5) years work experience in general accounting on a managerial level

Manpower Planning and Recruitment Department Manager (Makati)
- Graduate of B.S. Human Resources Management/Personnel Management, any behavioral science course (e.g. Psychology), or any business-related course, preferably with Master's Degree units
- With at least five (5) years work experience in the field of Recruitment, with at least one (1) year in a managerial capacity

SUPERVISORY

IT Audit Supervisor (Makati)
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy, Electronics and Computer Engineering or Computer Science
- A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Information System Auditor (CISA)
- With at least two (2) years Audit work experience, preferably in risk-based audits

Leadership and Development Training Supervisor (Makati)
- Graduate of B.S./A.B. Psychology, B.S. Human Resources Management or any Social Science course
- With at least three (3) years work experience in handling behavioral training (Training Needs Analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of training program)

SUPERVISORY

Insurance Sales Supervisor (Makati)
- Graduate of any four (4)-year business course
- At least 2 year(s) selling experience in a financial services sector or insurance agency
- Results oriented, self-driven, team player and highly organized

TECHNICAL STAFF

Accounting Staff
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- Hardworking and willing to work overtime
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Auditor (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao)
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- Preferably a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Internal Auditor (CIA)
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Business Development Specialist (Makati)
- Graduate of any business-related course, preferably BS Accountancy
- With working knowledge in Financial Statement Analysis
- With at least six (6) months work experience in related field

Marketing Research Analyst (Makati)
- Graduate of Marketing, Economics, or Business Administration
- With at least one (1) year work experience in a related field
- With working knowledge in modern marketing research and business trend analysis

TECHNICAL STAFF

Organizational Communications Specialist (Makati)
- Graduate of Mass Communication, Journalism, English or Creative Writing
- With at least two (2) years work experience gained from a Public Relations firm, Corporate Communications Group or similar field
- With knowledge of digital graphics (i.e. photography and videography) and presentation softwares.

Business Training Specialist (Makati)
- Graduate of any business-related course
- With at least two (2) years work experience in related field (e.g. facilitation skills)
- Excellent communication skills in both English and Filipino

Service Quality Analyst (Makati)
- Graduate of Statistics, Economics, Communication Research, Math or any business-related course
- With at least one (1) year work experience in related field
- With knowledge in using statistical analysis software

Engineer (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao)
- Graduate of B.S. in Civil Engineering or Architecture
- With at least one (1) year experience in building maintenance and construction
- Preferably a licensed Engineer or Architect (with knowledge in AUTOCAD applications)

Organizational Development Specialist (Makati)
- Graduate of B.S./A.B. Psychology, B.S. Human Resources Management/ Personnel Management or any Social Science course

TECHNICAL STAFF
- With at least one (1) year work experience in the field of Human Resources/ Organization Development
- Good oral and written communication skills

Manpower Planning and Recruitment Specialist (Makati)
- Graduate of B.S./A.B. Psychology, B.S. Human Resources Management/Personnel Management, any Social Science course
- With working knowledge on Psychometrics and psychological testing.
- With good interviewing, interpersonal and communication skills

Insurance Specialist (Makati and Cebu)
- Graduate of any four (4) year business related course
- With at least 2 years work experience in insurance related industry
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

Administrative Assistant (Makati)
- Graduate of any business-related course, Office Administration, Mass Communication, any four (4)-year college course or B.S. Secretarial
- With at least one (1) year work experience as a Secretary or Administrative Assistant
- Good interpersonal skills, flexible and reliable

Account Executive (Le Soleil de Boracay Sales Office – Makati)
- Graduate of any four (4)-year college course
- With at least one (1) year work experience related to the position, preferably in account handling and customer relations
- Excellent customer service orientation

Interested individuals may send or handcarry their resumé with 2X2 picture, TOR and Diploma to:
MANPOWER PLANNING AND RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
Human Resources Division
2/F Cebuana Lhuillier Building., 821 A. Spring St. corner J.P. Rizal St., 1200 Makati City
You may also email your applications to mpr_hrd@pjlhuillier.com.
Visit our corporate websites! Please log on to www.pjlhuillier.com and www.cebuana.com

Information security – The Sun Tzu way

ON NOV. 16 AT Mandarin Oriental, Makati City, Training Works will conduct a seminar on "Information Security Management System."

Recent high profile information security breaches and the value of information highlight the ever increasing need for organisations to protect their information.

This program discusses the insights that Sun Tzu provides for protecting mission-critical information systems and how to handle threats and vulnerabilities. While the program draws inspiration from this art of war, the best practices are borrowed from ISO 27001:2005. Rather than discussing theory, this session provides real-world lessons to improve our information security practices in light of Sun Tzu's teachings.

For inquiries, call 8451324 and look for Jasmin or email to jtunez@trainingworks.com.ph or click here to register.

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Contact No.: 809-94-21 • Fax No.: 809-03-31

ERRATUM

In the recruitment ad of **PACS Garcia Law Firm** published in this paper (Job Market Section) on October 21, 2007, one of the qualifications for **Lawyer** should be **"Preferably male"** instead of "Probably male." For the **Professional Manager**, the phrase "resides in South" should be **"resides in North."**

Our Apologies.

United Nations Philippines
Department of Safety and Security

Date Issued: 28 October 2007
Closing Date: 09 November 2007

NOTICE OF JOB VACANCY

POST TITLE : Radio Operator
LOCATION : Iligan City
SALARY : Max G2
DURATION : 3 months initially, with possibility of extension upon satisfactory performance.

Works under the technical supervision of the UN Telecommunications Associate (TA) and the Security Adviser (SA).

Description of duties:

- Operates the UN Emergency Communications System: VHF, HF, satellite phone
- Monitors the UN ECS radio traffic and maintains radio discipline.
- Conducts radio checks and reports compliance.
- Tracks UN travels within the country.
- Reports radio users who do not comply with the Radio SOPs.
- Reports technical problems to the TA.
- Provides emergency communications assistance for UN staff members by informing and directing emergency services.
- Coordinates emergency measures by radio and other telecommunications media.
- Broadcasts emergency messages by radio and on testing system.

Place of work:

Radio Operator shall work in Iligan City.

Qualifications:

- At least High School graduate.
- Computer literate (MS Office-Word, Excel, email).
- Full proficiency in English and excellent English pronunciation.
- NBI and police clearance.
- First Class Radiotelephone Operator's License and at least 2 years experience in radio communication networks.
- Ability and willingness to work night shifts.
- Dedication to the United Nations principles and demonstrated ability to work in harmony with persons of different national and cultural background; UN experience is an asset.
- Personal commitment to peace and reconciliation

Funding: to be funded by common services account, according to MOSS directive.

Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P.11), available in the UNDP website www.undp.org.ph/jobs and send via courier or fax to:

Development Services Support Center
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower I
RCBC Plaza, Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax: (632) 9010200 / 8897177

Indicating the Post Title, please submit your application letter and accomplished P-11 form **on or before 09 November 2007.** The application must be accompanied by two references as attachment. Kindly note that only completed P.11 forms with two attached references will be reviewed.

Please note that only the short-listed candidates will be contacted.

The United Nations Organization strongly encourages applications from qualified female candidates. The UN-offices are a non-smoking environment. Qualified Manila residents are also welcome to apply.

This vacancy notice will be posted at the UNDP website (www.undp.org.ph) until 09 November 2007.

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- Experienced Audiologists with relevant degree level qualification & excellent English language communication skills. Minimum of 5 years experience.

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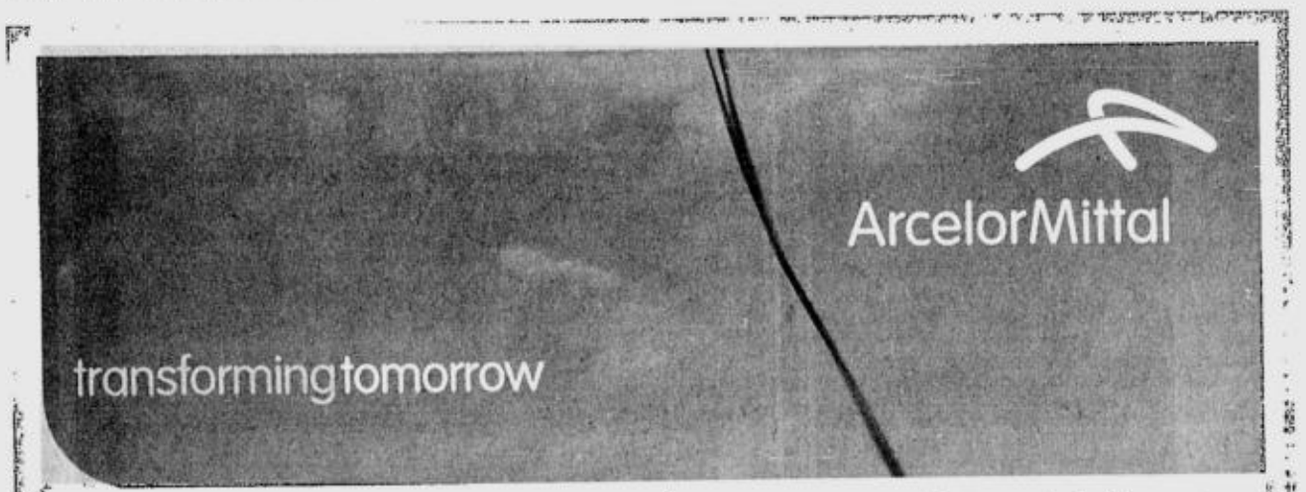

People is our most important asset and we are seeking fine individuals who are dynamic, passionate about work and achievement oriented to provide top notch services to our customers in line with our expansion into the regional markets. Applicant must possess high degree of integrity & proficient in English with good communication & presentation skill.

Sales Engineer (Phillippines-Manila)

- Degree Holder in Civil Engineering with a minimum of 2 years marketing experience
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- Training @ Malaysia will be provided

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Interested candidate is invited to submit your application together with passport size photograph no later than **5th Nov 2007**. E-mail to : hr.department@orientalsheetpiling.com

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of

PROVINCIAL PROJECT COORDINATOR

IFUGAO

Under the immediate supervision of the Governor and in close working partnership with the UNFPA Area Officers, the Provincial Project Coordinator covering Ifugao area will be hired to serve as the frontline link of UNFPA with the implementing partners. He will perform the following duties and responsibilities;

1. Assist the province and municipalities in setting up their respective project management units (PMUs) ensuring that the necessary legal requirements have been complied with focal persons for the project have been properly designated at the provincial, municipal and NGO levels, and office space, furniture and basic supplies have been provided.
2. Formulate and ensure the adoption of a provincial and municipal manual of operations spelling out the systems and procedures to be used by the PMUs based on the UNFPA rules and regulations.
3. Working closely with the designated focal persons, assist in the orientation of provincial and municipal officials, service providers and other stakeholders about the 6th CP and its major components. Ensure that the activities spelled out in the quarterly and annual work plans are carried out by the LGUs as planned and on a timely basis.
4. Provide technical assistance to the province and municipalities in the preparations of quarterly and annual work plans and results-based reports and ensure the timely submission of these documents to UNFPA Manila
5. Coordinate the conduct of inter- and intra-provincial and municipal activities such as community assessment and baseline surveys, training of service providers, IEC and advocacy campaigns, etc.
6. Coordinate the monitoring visits of UNFPA, donors and national and regional partners. Assist in monitoring the progress of implementation of provinces and municipalities vis-à-vis outputs and targets on a regular basis and address operational problems as they arise. Prepare corresponding monitoring reports for submission to concerned UNFPA Area Officer.
7. Facilitate requests of provinces and municipalities for technical assistance from the region, national agencies, NGOs and UNFPA
8. Serve as resource person or trainor for capacity building activities
9. Document program activities in the area. Assist the province and municipalities in the identification and documentation of their best practices
10. Perform other duties that may be assigned by the UNFPA Area Officer, the Governor or the UNFPA Representative

Qualifications:

Must be a holder of bachelor's degree, preferably in the social sciences

Must have at least 5 years experience working in reproductive health, population and gender projects preferably at the LGU/community level

Must have excellent interpersonal, communication (oral and written), facilitating and negotiating skills.

Works harmoniously with the rest of the team, sharing knowledge and information openly and displaying cultural and gender sensitivity.

Must be proficient in MS Word, MS Excel, PowerPoint and Internet applications

Willing to travel to depressed and disadvantaged areas and be based in the province and assignment

Applicants are requested to send their application letters indicating post title together with a completed UN Personal History Form (P11), available in www.unfpa.org/about/employment/p-11.doc to:

The Country Representative
United Nations Population Fund
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower 1,
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue,
1229 Makati City, Philippines

or through email: jtraquina@unfpa.org. All questions related to the announcement must be sent to Ms. Antonina Ducusin of UNFPA Manila by email: ducusin@unfpa.org

We will only be able to respond to those applicants in whom UNFPA has a further interest. UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date.

This is a project-funded post.
Salary Range: Negotiable based on experience and qualifications
Duration of employment: Initially three (3) months with a possible extension up to twelve (12) months renewable on a yearly basis up to three (3) years
Deadline for submission of applications: November 09, 2007

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ASP.NET PROGRAMMER - Experienced in ASP.net, VB or C# programming, MS SQL, Oracle database, MY SQL architecture migration, Microsoft Sharepoint EDI.

JAVA PROGRAMMERS - Experienced in handling ERP programs, handling Multiple load balancing access programming, Oracle, MS SQL and MY SQL database. Understand SOA architecture.

IF YOU ARE - Proficient in both oral and written English language, in good health, College graduate, between 25-35 years of age and with minimum two (2) years actual work experience in work scope described above –

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NO PLACEMENT FEE. APPLICATIONS WILL BE HANDLED IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANT POSITIONS

The National Research Council of the Philippines is in search of personnel for the following positions:

PERMANENT APPOINTMENT

1. ***Senior Science Research Specialist***, SG-19; Item No. NRCPB-SRSRS-1-1998; Php 221,652 p.a.; QUALIFICATION STANDARDS: **Education:** Bachelor's degree relevant to the job (preferably Biology); **Experience:** 2 years of relevant experience; **Training** 8 hours of relevant training; **Eligibility:** CS Professional/Second Level

2. ***Computer Programmer I***, SG-11; Item No. NRCPB-COMPRO1-1-1998; Php 139,068 p.a.; QUALIFICATION STANDARDS: **Education:** Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; **Experience:** None required; **Training:** None required; **Eligibility:** CS Professional/Second Level

SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENT

3. ***Administrative Officer I***, SG-10; Item No. NRCPB-ADOF1-11-2004; Php 131,196 p.a.; QUALIFICATION STANDARDS: **Education:** Bachelor's degree; **Experience:** None required; **Training:** None required; **Eligibility:** CS Professional/Second Level

Applications may be submitted directly to:

The Chairman
Personnel Selection/Promotion Board
National Research Council of the Philippines
General Santos Avenue, Bicutan
1631 Taguig City

Please enclose latest curriculum vitae, certificate of eligibility, transcript of records, diploma of highest degree and one 2" x 2" picture. Applications must be received by NRCP on or before November 9, 2007. *For inquiries please contact the NRCP Personnel Section at 837-6143 or 839-0275.*

LEAK Construction Syndicates, Inc.

LCSI, is in need of the following:

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Draftsman
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Please apply directly to LCSI office located @ 1603 Medical Plaza Ortigas Bldg., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City or Call 706-2183 to 85 and look for Ms. Ana of HR dept.

ABESAMIS DENTAL CLINIC
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Residing in Parañaque, Alabang or Laguna
With good communication skills & an outgoing personality
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Please send resumé with 2x2 picture to:

4th Level, Festival Supermall, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
or email to: careers@abesamisdental.com

Suretex Philippines, Inc., a construction company specializing in protective coating, is urgently in need of

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Interested applicants may submit their resumés with recent photo through email address. info@suretex.com.ph, or fax at no. 02-5212069

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Please submit personally your comprehensive resumé on or before November 7, 2007

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2. **Marketing Assistant / Brand Associate**
3. **Distributors Specialist**
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or e-mail @ gpi_94@yahoo.com.ph

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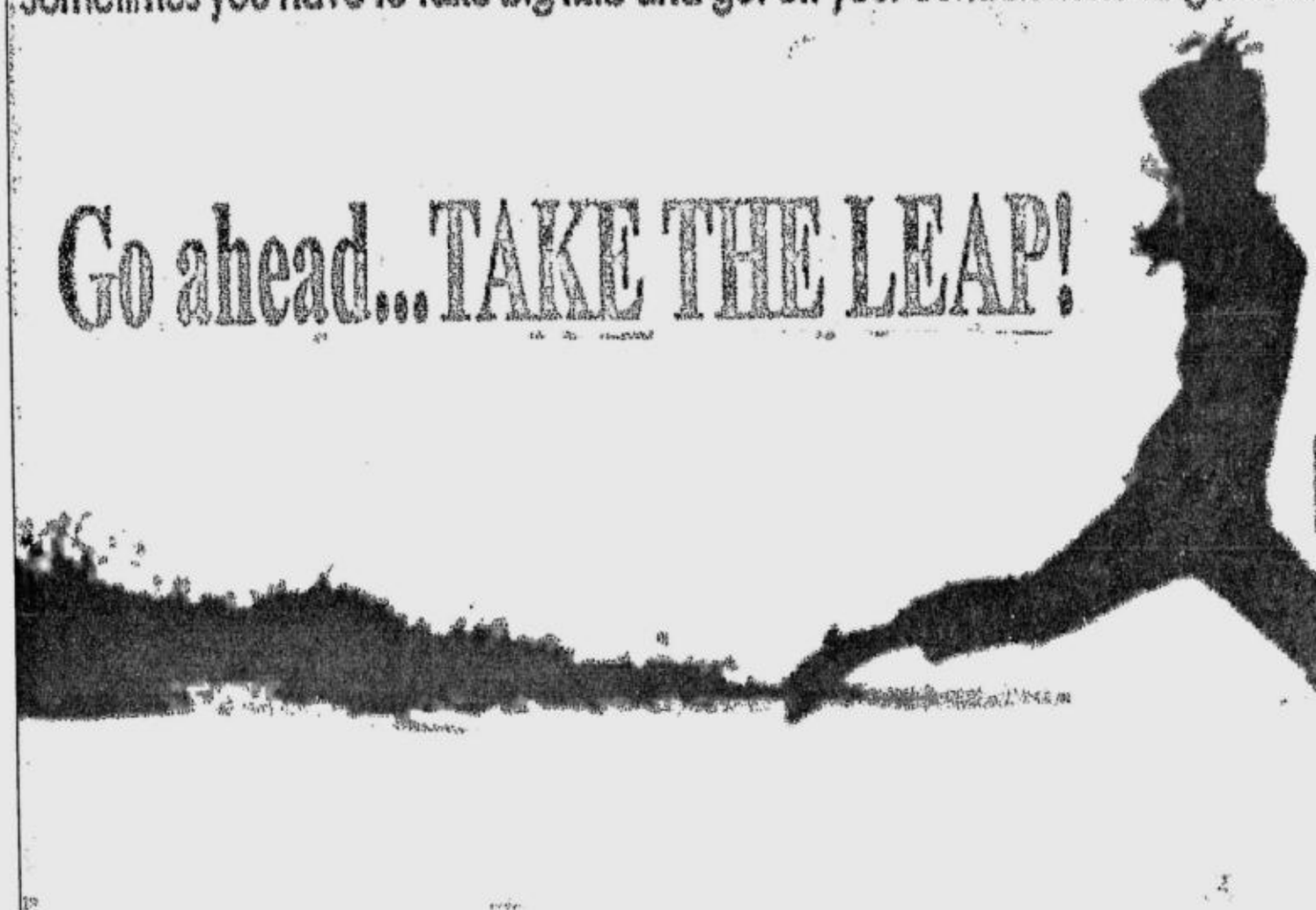

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Helping your marketing and sales teams soar!

MANSMITH AND FIELDERS, INC, WILL conduct a seminar on "45th From Selling to Managing" on Nov. 14 and 15, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City.

More often than not excelling and above average sales performers get promoted to become sales supervisors, unit managers, regional managers, heads of account teams or even national sales managers. A promotion is certainly a great reward for delivering good numbers and quality results fueled with hard work and dedication. A reward it is indeed! Or is it not?

Promoted sales people find themselves too small to fill in a bigger responsibility. They still focus on the trees where the entire forest needs their attention. They discover that their selling skills are not sufficient to help them survive this new career mission. Bottom line is, when they fail, they probably take an entire unit's performance down with them or maybe even an entire company!

The participant/s will gain: knowledge on frameworks and process for transitioning successfully from selling to managing; frameworks and processes in sales supervision, management, and other critical key result areas; related seeds of skill development; tools that can be used on the job; confidence points

Your company will gain: From the knowledge, process and skill upgrade of your sales supervisor/manager; From less trial and error from experimentation on the part of your sales manager/supervisor; From lesser risk of failure that will require rework to fix issues which may even include another tiring round of search and replacement of personnel; From losing good sales people down the line who may not take the new sales management style and mistakes sitting down; From having applicable systems and management tools installed by your sales manager/supervisor.

For early bird savings and group registration of 4. Call Alice Torres at 7222318/7277142 or email us at info@mansmith.net or visit our website at www.mansmith.net.

"Volunteering in Mozambique left in me an indelible mark. I learned to look at issues from a global perspective and to consider the welfare of other people whom I should not have met if I didn't brave the waters. It helped me to realize that teaching is indeed a noble profession. What other incentive should I seek when I had the chance to train budding Mozambican teachers, from 23 to 58 years old! For them, education is life. And for three years, I was a part in helping change lives."
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Email: bahaginan@vsoint.org
Write: The Director, VSO BAHAGINAN, Unit 505 Pacific Corporate Center, 131 West Ave., Quezon City 1105

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DOLE recommends measures to help OFWs cope with strong peso

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYment (Dole) recommended immediate and long-term remedial measures that would assist overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families cope with the continued strengthening of the peso.

Labor and Employment Arturo D. Brion said the Dole came up with the recommendations following its initial consultations with other government agencies such as the Departments of Agriculture (DA) and Trade and Industry (DTI), as well as the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

The meeting was part of the Dole's preparation for the multi-sectoral consultative conference, which will be held next month to solicit the cooperation of the private sector and other stakeholders in assisting the OFWs cope with the strong peso.

Brion said the Dole has come up with two sets of remedial measures – immediate and long term.

He said the immediate remedial measures involve income augmentation programs for low salaried semi-skilled OFWs earning less than US$400 basic monthly pay. The measures include the provision of livelihood and skills for employment scholarship programs (SESP) aimed at enabling the OFWs and their families gain appropriate skills and loan assistance for the setting up of income augmenting business enterprises.

Brion said the Dole would seek the assistance of the DTI, DA, BSP in implementing the livelihood and SESP programs for OFWs and their families.

For OFWs earning US$400 monthly pay and above, Brion said the Dole recommended the floating of OFW bonds that can pay for house and lot at a discount price and as alternative OFW investment.

The Dole also recommended the provision of long-term financial literacy program and enterprise development training for OFWs and their families to sustain the assistance and viability of the OFWs' economic capability.

JOBMARKET TRAINING NAVIGATOR

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	For Inquiries
Labor Updates and RA9481: Strengthening Workers' Right to Self Organization-Boon or Bane?	Oct. 31	TBD (Visayas)	ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph
Top Secrets of Handling BIR Audit Workshop	Nov. 7-9 1:30-5:30 p.m.	Holiday Inn Galleria Ortigas	Powermax Consulting Group Tel. 687-9014/5748 call Leni
Strategic Brand Mgmt	Nov. 12 - 16 6-9 p.m.	AIM Campus Makati City	EXCELL Marketing Group Tel. 893-2050/892-4011 loc 166 / Raul email: excell@aim.edu
45th From Selling to Managing	Nov. 14 & 15 8:30-5:30 p.m.	Mandarin Oriental Makati City	Mansmith and Fielders, Inc. Tel. 722-2318 / 727-7142 www.mansmith.net.info@mansmith.net
Information Security	Nov. 16	Mandarin Oriental	Training Works Tel. 845-1324 look for Jasmin jrunez@trainingnworks.com
Marketing Distribution Mgmt	Nov. 19 - 23 6-9 p.m.	AIM Campus Makati City	EXCELL Marketing Group Tel. 893-2050/892-4011 loc 166 / Raul email: excell@aim.edu
Effective Business Writing	Nov. 22 & 23	Penthouse, Makati Stock Exchange Bldg.	South East Asia Speakers & Trainers Bur. Tel. 881-2540 (Francis/Delia/Myrna) seawebit@surfshop.net.ph
The Quest for Manufacturing Excellence	Nov. 26 - 28 8:30-5:30 p.m.	AIM Campus Makati City	EXCELL Marketing Group Tel. 893-2050/892-4011 loc 166 / Raul email: excell@aim.edu
Presenting with Power	Dec. 6 & 7	Penthouse, Makati Stock Exchange Bldg.	South East Asia Speakers & Trainers Bur. Tel. 881-2540 (Francis/Delia/Myrna) seawebit@surfshop.net.ph

DOLE issues pay rules for Nov. 1 and 2 special non-working days

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) said that Nov. 1 (All Saints Day), and Nov. 2, are special non-working days throughout the country.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that the President, by virtue of Proclamation No. 1211 she issued earlier on Jan.10, had declared Nov. 2 a special non-working day in order to give the Filipino people more time to observe the time-honored tradition of All Saints Day.

In this light, the Labor Chief reiterated to the country's employers the rules applying on the nationwide special non-working days on Nov. 1 and 2, 2007 as follows:

If the day is unworked, the no work, "no work, no pay" policy shall apply unless there is a favorable company policy, practice or collective bargaining agreement (CBA) granting payment on a special day even if the day is unworked.

If the day, however, is worked, the pay is the employee's daily rate plus thirty percent (30%) for the first eight hours of work, and for work in excess of eight hours, plus thirty percent (30%) of the hourly rate on said day.

If the day falls on the employee's rest day and is worked, the employee's daily rate plus fifty percent (50%) shall apply on the first eight hours of work, and for work in excess of eight hours, plus thirty percent (30%) of the hourly rate on said day.

Top secrets on handling BIR audit workshop set

FINALLY, A WORKSHOP THAT WILL REVEAL INSIDE INFORmation on sure-fire ways to save money without compromising integrity. Don't miss this very important event slated on Nov. 7-9, 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria, Ortigas. Topics include Day 1: The BIR Letter of Authority; Anatomy of LA; 17 Common Errors in Handling BIR LA; Smart Ways of Dealing with BIR Letter of Authority; Day 2: Responsibility and Accountability of Bookkeepers, Accountants, Auditors and Company Officials; Reasons for Receiving Subpoena Duces Tecum; First Notice; Second Notice; Third Notice; Risks of Ignoring Subpoena Duces Tecum; Common Mistakes in Handling Subpoena Duces Tecum Effective Strategies; Day 3: How to Prepare Motion, Protest and Petition Against BIR Letter of Authority — The Right Forms; How to Prepare Motion, Protest and Petition Against IR Subpoena Duces Tecum— The Right Forms; Secrets of Cancelling BIR Letter of Authority; Secrets of Cancelling Subpoena Duces Tecum, etc. Registering for one day only is allowed, but people are encouraged to attend the whole program.

The resource lecturer is Prof. Emy Maestro, CPA; Founder of Tax Accountant Society, the National Organization of BIR Accredited Tax Agents; Founding Chairman of Auditor ng Bayan; and author of 14 books on Accounting and Auditing. This seminar is sponsored by Powermax Consulting Group. Please call Leni at 687-9014 / 5748 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

Three special programs set

DINA H. LOOMIS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH EAST ASIA Speakers and Trainers Bureau, Inc announces the conduct of the three special programs for "Effective Business Writing" on Nov. 22-23; "The Total Secretary" on Dec. 4; and "Presenting With Power" on Dec. 6-7 at the Penthouse, Makati Stock Exchange Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City.

For inquiries, please contact Telephone Nos: 881-2540; 881-7358; 882-5716; 883-2676 (Francis/ Delia/ Myrna/ Andrew) or email us at seawebit@surfshop.net.ph. Surprise gifts await the first 10 callers who will register and pay.

AIM's evening programs 2007

THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT-EXECUTIVE Education Lifelong Learning Center (AIM-EXCELL) has found a way to pursue its training schedule from 6 to 9 PM, Monday to Friday, AIM Campus, Makati City on the following topics: "Strategic Brand Management," Nov. 12 to 16 and "Marketing Distribution Management" Nov. 19 to 23. For inquries, contact the EXCELL Marketing Group, Raul, Yola, or Apple at Tel. Nos. 893 2050; 892 4011 loc. 166, 526, 228 or email excell@aim.edu.

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Section Managers / Assistant Section Managers

Candidates must be between 23-30 years old and a graduate of a four (4) year course. They will be responsible for organizing, managing stores and leading highly motivated teams. This requires a proven management experience at the point of sale with a leadership style that inspires motivation and enthusiasm. Our successful candidates should have excellent communication skills, fluent in English and have passion for customer service and products.

Visual Merchandisers / Sales Assistants / Alterers

Candidates must be between 18-28 years old, college level and should have good communication skills, can multi-task and have a passion for customer service and products.

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Candidates must be between 20-28 years old, college graduate, systematic, organized, and works well under pressure. They should also have good communication skills and have a passion for customer service and products.

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Candidates must be between 23 to 28 years old, Female, psychology graduate for HR Assistant and any four year course for Office Assistant with at least 1 year work related experience. She must have good communication and administrative skills, can multi task, highly organized, can work independently, highly flexible, willing to do field work and can work well under pressure.

Qualified applicants may e-mail or personally send your comprehensive resume, Transcript of Record, Employment Certificate, 2x2 Picture and other credentials to:

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Human Resources Department
5th Floor Enzo Buendia Building
399 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Makati City 1200 Philippines
TeleFax: (02) 899-61-89
Email address: **ISCI_recruit@rgoc.com.ph**

Or to any of the following stores:
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Land Administration and Management Project 2 (LAMP2) is a multi-funded project with grant aid for Technical Assistance from the Australian Government and World Bank loan to the Philippine Government. The Technical Assistance Team needs

CONSULTANT TO DO STUDY ON LAND TENURE

(1 MONTH)

The Terms of Reference is available upon request. Qualifications include appropriate tertiary qualifications in law or land management or public policy and familiar with land laws and registration; at least 5 years relevant experience in public policy formulation, excellent oral and written communication skills and excellent interpersonal skills.

Interested applicants may email their CV through ***palamp1@mindgate.net*** *or submit to the Human Resources and Contracts Manager, LAMP 2, Land Equity International SECAL Building DENR Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.* ***Deadline for Submission: 5:00 p.m., Monday 5 November 2007.***

Land Equity International contracts and manages the grant funding for Technical Assistance. Please log on to ***www.landequity.com.au,*** *for detailed information about the company and to* ***www.phil-lamp.org*** *for project information.*

LAND equity

Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP 2) is funded with grant aid for Technical Assistance from the Australian Government and World Bank loan to the Philippine Government. The Technical Assistance Team is in need of

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- Knowledge of land administration and management preferred
- Exposure to ODA funded projects is favored

Applicants may email their CV with cover letter and at least 2 references to ***palamp1@mindgate.net*** or fax to 9281176. The full Terms of Reference are available upon request. **Deadline for Submission: 5:00 p.m., Monday 5 November 2007**

Land Equity International contracts and manages the grant funding for Technical Assistance. Please log on to ***www.landequity.com.au,*** for detailed information about the company and to ***www.phil-lamp.org*** for the project information.

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Qualified applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph not later than Friday, November 2, 2007, to **The HR & Administration Manager** at the following address:

Financial Times Electronic Publishing Philippines Inc.
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

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The quest for mfg excellence

THE ASIAN INSTITute of Management-Executive Education Lifelong Learning Center (AIM-EXCELL) will conduct a seminar on "The Quest for Excellence" on Nov. 26 to 28, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at AIM Campus, Makati City.

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To Register in the course, contact EXCELL Marketing Group - Philippines, Raul Senedrin / Yola Genuino / Apple Ani at tel. nos. 893-2050; 892-4011 loc. 166; 526; 228. Fax nos. 893-2031; 892-3260.

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- Safety training and induction of employees
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- Extensive experience in mining- or civil engineering-related work

➢ **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER**
- Responsible for the effective implementation of the Company's community development and environmental management program in accordance with "Best Practices" standards
- At least 5-10 years broad experience in community relations and development work, including project implementation background, in public and private sector; 5 years in environmental management a plus
- Cultural and environmental awareness of target areas
- Skilled in relationship development; able to maintain and monitor effective relationships with networks
- Knowledge in community profiling, skilled in assessing social & environmental impacts and mitigating factors
- Identification and implementation of development projects
- Proactive media management experience a plus
- NGO work experience a plus

➢ **MINE PLANNING ENGINEER**
- Mining Engineer with minimum of 3 years experience as planning engineer in a reputable organization
- Experience in bills of quantities/scope of work, preparation of cost, project scheduling, histograms, and cash flow/P&L analysis and monitoring

➢ **CHIEF CHEMISTS**
- BS Chemistry or Chemical engineering graduate
- With 5-8 years of related work experience in mining and construction industry
- Extensive experience in laboratory works to support operations

➢ **MINE OPERATIONS MANAGER**
- Mining Engineer with at least 5 years experience in open pit/quarry production
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4) Above average intelligence, self-motivated and can work without supervision.
5) Ambitious, highly motivated, aggressive, persistent, and hardworking, can drive & with valid driver's license.

Send your detailed bio-data and recent photo (at least 2x2) to Personnel Dept., SMPC Bldg., 1308 P. Guevarra cor. E. Remigio Streets, Sta. Cruz, Manila. or email at : powerhousetmc@gmail.com Interviewees will be notified individually.

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***ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR**
***STORE MANAGERS**
***STORE SUPERVISORS**
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Interested applicants may send their resumé with 2x2 photo to:
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Send your comprehensive resumé and transcript to:
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#14 Economia St., Bagumbayan
Quezon City 1110

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Qualifications:
• Female, Single (21-30 years old) • Graduate of Accountancy • Good Communication Skills • Computer Literate (Good Comprehension with MS Word, Excel) • Good Moral Character • Working Experience not necessary

Interested applicants can submit their Bio-Data and Resumé to the following:
507 Policarpio Street, Mandaluyong City
Tel: 534-3812 • 531-2573 • 534-3005
or send them via-email to:
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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Municipal Development Fund Office

The Local Government Finance and Development (LOGOFIND) Project is a government project under the Municipal Development Fund Office (MDFO) of the Department of Finance (DOF) is inviting interested applicants to fill the following positions:

CODE: ACT III ACCOUNTANT III SG-18

Qualifications:
- Certified Public Accountant;
- Three (3) years of relevant experience;
- Must have knowledge of government accounting procedures, knowledge on foreign financing and disbursement procedures;
- Sixteen (16) hours of relevant training;
- A person of good moral character;
- With good communication skills, both oral and written
- Computer literate;
- Career Service Professional

CODE: TS-1 TRAINING SPECIALIST

Qualifications:
- Degree in Social sciences, Masteral degree is an advantage;
- Experience in preparation of training programs, particularly for LGUs for at least three years;
- Experience in working with LGUs is an advantage;
- Computer literate;
- Willing to travel to remote places;

CODE: TA-1 TRAINING ASSOCIATE

Qualifications:
- Degree in Social Sciences;
- At least two years in preparation of training programs;
- Experience in working with LGUs is an advantage;
- Proficient in written and oral English;
- Computer literate;
- Willing to travel to remote places;

CODE: TAT-1 TRAINING ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Degree in Social Sciences;
- At least one year experience in preparation of training programs;
- Proficient in oral and written English
- Computer literate;
- Willing to travel to remote places;

CODE: MAE-1 MONITORING & EVALUATION ASSOCIATE

Qualifications:
- College degree holder, preferably a graduate of Social Sciences, Civil Engineering or any related field;
- Experience in monitoring and evaluation of infrastructure, social and environmental projects for at least three years;
- Proficient in oral and written English;
- Computer literate;
- Willing to travel to remote places;

CODE: MEAT-1 MONITORING & EVALUATION ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- College Degree holder, preferably a graduate of Social Sciences, Civil Engineering or any related field;
- Experience in monitoring and evaluation of infrastructure, social and environmental projects for at least one year;
- Proficient in oral and written English;
- Computer literate;
- Willing to travel to remote places;

Interested applicants may send their letter of application, comprehensive resumé, transcript of records, and 2 x 2 picture on or before October 31, 2007 to:

CODE: _____
(SGD) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Municipal Development Fund Office
Department of Finance
Podium Level, Executive Tower Building
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex
Roxas Boulevard, Manila

POSITION: Micronutrient Programme Officer A2Z Project/Philippines

The A2Z Project is a multi-country USAID-funded project providing technical assistance and expertise to strengthen and Implement micronutrient programs to improve the nutrition and health of vulnerable populations. A2Z in the Philippines will work with national and local government institutions, partner NGOs, private sector and research institutions to integrate micronutrients into a range of health programs. Technical intervention areas include Vitamin A Coverage, Anemia Reduction, Food Fortification, and Mainstreaming Micronutrients. The Micronutrient Programme Officer will work with the A2Z Resident Advisor to provide technical assistance in the Department of Health, Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD) and Local Government Units (LGUs) and will assist in the activities for capacity building of regional and provincial municipalities in the implementation of micronutrient program in 29 provinces.

Required: Bachelor's degree required (Master's degree preferred) in Nutrition, Public Health or related fields with minor in Nutrition/Public Health. Two or more years experience in nutrition and/or development program including work in information gathering activities to implement programs, and in planning and conducting training programs. She/he must have strong oral and written communication skills and must be computer literate.

Preferred: Adept in using participatory community appraisal, with strong interpersonal skills and willing to travel.

Submit resume and certificate of employment not later than November 12, 2007 to Academy For Educational Development, Inc. – A2Z Project 6/F 704 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St. Malate Metro Manila, Attention: Administrative Officer or email at jgonzales@aed.org. No phone calls will be honored.

Leading Distributor for branded Fragrances and Cosmetics is seeking for the following positions to be based in the Philippines:

Country Manager

You will be responsible for full spectrum of the business operations.

Your goal is to be responsible for Marketing and Sales of the brands, to expand current market share and achieve sales budgets for the brands and Company's bottom line.

Strong leadership qualities a pre-requisite to lead the team.

Requirements:
- Degree in Business Administration from a recognized institution.
- Minimum 5 years of relevant experience with a proven record in a reputable branded fragrances/cosmetics/FMCG industry.
- A proven leader and a hands-on individual.
- Strong analytical skills to clearly link financial results to operational performance.
- Good communication, negotiation, problem solving and decision making skills.
- Able to achieve organization goals and business objectives, conceptualize ideas and plans, and implement effective practices and processes.

Finance Manager

You will handle the full spectrum of the Finance function. Good leadership skills to lead and supervise the finance team.

Requirements:
- CPA or Degree in Finance or Accountancy.
- Minimum 5 years of relevant work experience.
- Responsible for preparation of management reports, budget and cash-flow projections for Management, financial closing, audit and taxation matters.
- Computer literate (MS Office software).

Please e-mail your full resumé and indicate position applied for to:
hr@prestige.com.sg

Career power with the 4Ps of marketing

By Roel A. Andag
Contributor

MARKETING INTRODUCES A brand to the consciousness of the target market. Astute marketing makes people buy the brand. Genius marketing makes the brand leap from commonplace to iconic—needed and coveted. Marketing follows the 4 Ps: product, place, price and promotion. Apply the 4 Ps of marketing to your career life to stay competitive and desired. Make Brand You a winning brand with the 4 Ps.

Product. It all begins with an excellent product—Brand You. The demands of a globalized workplace continually elevate basic requirements. What is basic today is passé tomorrow. It was in the dreamy past when a college education was enough to land a cushy job. Today, graduate studies seem mandatory. Exceed the basic standards of your career category. Keep yourself informed and updated.

Focus is an important product ingredient. Which one, 10, 100 or 1,000 companies or individuals will derive value from your services? Have an intimate understanding of that market—its needs, preferences and mindset. Attempting to impress everyone will result in pleasing no one, not even yourself.

Perception is another key element. Brand You should captivate the imagination of the target market. How do you perceive yourself? How would you want your target market to perceive you? Appeal to the taste of your market. Refine and innovate accordingly if necessary. A successful brand communicates and establishes an emotional connection with its consumers.

What one word best describes you? Try leader, decisive, sharp, witty, inspiring, principled or other powerful words to determine your brand attribute.

But is the product useful? Identify or develop your unique selling proposition or USP. Are you a super salesperson? An expert in a yet untapped field? A dazzling communicator? An incomparable leader?

Fantastically creative? A publicity genius? Your USP is the differentiator that will enable you to stand apart. Avoid being a me-too product that merely duplicates others. Do not be a Swiss knife either—multitasking but lacking focus. Make sure that Brand You performs and delivers on its promise.

Packaging is equally important.

Thirteen judgments are made within the first 30 seconds of your appearance. See to it that you are decent and presentable at all times. Influence perception by presenting substance with style. That includes communicating with impact.

Place. Are you well-positioned in the mind of your target market? The challenge is to plant the Brand You flag in consciousness prime spot. You need to be in a position of leadership to do this. In this context, it is your ability to lead yourself.

Do you envision a pride of place? Do you honestly believe that you will belong to the top 10 percent of people in your career category in due time? Benchmark yourself according to the standards of individuals and companies you admire. Study their strategies before they became successful and how they now sustain that success.

Are you at the right place at the right time? Be an opportunity spotter and creator, and leverage every break. Be where the action is. Showing up does half of the job.

Price. This can be your desired compensation—your market value—given your qualifications and potential. Obsessing on the money, however, will be futile if the product is not "buyable," let alone sellable. Brand You must be truly unique and indispensable. Price is more of how you value yourself. Multiply your self-worth by investing in authentic self-improvement—continuously enhance your knowledge, skills, attitude and behavior. Price includes the risks or bargains you are willing to offer and take in furthering your career.

Ultimately, the market will not mind lavishing on a prime brand.

Promotion. Sizzle or fizzle. An excellent product, Brand You should be easy to promote. Be visible to your target market. Network strategically: approach industry stalwarts with the intention of building mutually beneficial relationships. How? You can volunteer for a project, provide intelligent information such as analysis of industry trends, broker business links, present opportunities, or submit a proposal.

Beware of shameless promotion, hard sell and parasitic networking.

Ubiquity does not necessarily translate to desirability. With its substance, Brand You will not require big bang promotion or deceptive spin. The key is for Brand You to be valuable. Favorable word of mouth will follow thereafter.

Use the Four Ps in building Brand You. Devise a marketing plan that will propel your career. With patient, determined and sustained work, Brand You will reach a tipping point that will trigger success. Properly managed, Brand You will have no expiration date.

(The author is a training and communication consultant. E-mail the author at success.system1@gmail.com.)

Gospel. Luke 18: 9-14

"I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

True humility

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

ONE OF THE MAIN TEACHINGS OF JESUS REGARDING HUMAN BEhavior is that of humility. The Lord who is the greatest person the world has ever known and will ever know shows that the path to greatness is through humbling oneself. Humility does not consist in doing a lowly work or action, in having the lowest rank in the social structure or being in the poor sector of the community or being considered as anything less and lowly by the world's standards. Neither does humility lie in having a poor self-image nor in regarding one's person in low self-esteem. Rather, true humility consists in knowing and understanding the true dignity of oneself as a person created by God with the divine likeness and in accepting the fact that everything one has comes from the Creator.

A humble person is one who acknowledges God's greatness and gratefully accepts his own worth in participation with that of the divine. He is ready to worship God as the Source of everything he is and he has; showing such worship not only in occasional and formal acts of reverence and prayer, but also in the ordinary run of daily life and activities. A humble person is one who with whatever profession, position or rank he has in society, be it lowly or privileged, would do everything as a gesture of love, reverence and obedience to the Will of the Author of life and energy. The employer, manager or simple laborer could be the humble person Jesus is teaching about.

When everyone in the workplace regards oneself before the Almighty as a creature whom God loves and has endowed with dignity and would deal with one another in that light, a family or a community would easily be formed where work becomes a source of joy and happiness. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

A good lubricant

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

FOR TODAY'S REFLECTION, LET US FOCUS ON A PHRASE WE HEAR and repeat so often and just as often take for granted: "the humble worker." People use this usually to refer to the "small worker"—another cliché—workers who (we presume) hardly weigh anything in the socioeconomic scale, like street-sweepers, supermarket bag boys, janitors, fishermen, farmers, stevedores, workers who get their hands dirty in their jobs, people who work at jobs that don't require degrees, dispensable workers—you know the kind. They're what people like to call *hamak na manggagawa*, a term our society does not associate with company presidents, our bosses, religious leaders, media people, *hacienderos*, the privileged class.

Now, are "humble workers" expected to be humble and the others, not? When "humble workers" choose to sit at places of honor at gatherings, are they thought of as defiant or plain stupid? When people of rank or privilege take seats normally occupied by nobodies, are they praised for their humility or scorned for their hypocrisy? When "humble workers" sit in the shadows while "big people" sit in the limelight, does this mean people "know their places?" And if so, does this mean we are living in a just society?

These questions, while not being directly related to the Gospel story for today, nonetheless point to a supposed virtue in that story: humility. Humility is hard to measure—we can manage to appear humble, but only God knows the real score. As workers, though, we ought to know that humility is a lubricant in the workplace: it helps us change when we're wrong, and when we're right, it gives us compassion towards others.*(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

How to be assertive without being aggressive

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

I JUST HAD MY MIDYEAR performance appraisal and my boss tells me that I am not assertive enough. He explained how he wanted me to be, but I get confused between being assertive and aggressive, I want to improve my performance in this specific area before the year ends. Can you give me tips on how to be assertive? For your information, I am only five feet tall, lanky, asthmatic, and astigmatic. How can I overcome my physical attributes to be more assertive and successful in my career?

Clark Kent

I know that that is not your real name, but it tells me more what's inside of you.

Let me start by saying that assertiveness is important in life and career.

It helps you become stronger. At the same time, it keeps others from taking undue advantage of your mild manner or good nature. Regardless of your physical attributes, you can be truly assertive if you want.

Influence others

Aggressiveness is another thing. Being abrasive is worse. You can be assertive without being aggressive or abrasive. All you need is a healthy sense of self-esteem to start with. Then, learn to apply some assertiveness training techniques in your ways. Then, you'll see a different you.

Assertive people know how to influence others. They don't strive to control others—influence is enough to make others do what you want them to do.

One can assert himself by creating a commanding presence. Physique is not enough. Posture, grooming, self-confidence, convincing words, clear and concise communication—all these can help to create a commanding presence.

Be realistic

Remember that you cannot control how others will react to you, especially if you want them to do what you want them to do. But, you have 100-percent control over what you are, what you will say, how you will appear, and how you will relate with others. Start with a positive thought—that you can influence others to see things your way. But first, you have to gain mastery of yourself, your thoughts, and the situation.

You need to be realistic in your expectations. It pays to prepare before any encounter where your assertiveness is required. If you are speaking to an audience, it is best to know the demographics, their needs and wants, and what they expect you to do or say. If you are going to talk to a person, understand who the person is, his or her background, where he or she "is coming from," his or her strengths and weaknesses, etc.

You can be very assertive and still unable to convince the other person. Therefore, it is wise to prefer or expect the other person to act in a certain way—don't impose on the other person to act in the way you want him or her to.

Respect

Without knowing it, people treat you the way that you teach them to treat you. If you respect yourself and act respectably, people will respect you. Even if you hold a respectable position, but if you act as if you don't deserve to be respected, you are in fact teaching others to treat you with disrespect.

If you allow yourself to be bullied, you are encouraging others to push you over. You can be firm, tough-minded and not easily swayed by others.

I am not saying that you should be stubborn. If you want others to treat you with respect and dignity, teach them by being dignified.

Art of saying 'no'

Other people will tend to manipulate or abuse you. If you have trouble saying "no," practice saying no. If you are given too many committee assignments, more than you can reasonably handle, think again. People might be abusing your generosity, talent or kind-heartedness. Learn to stand up and say, "I respectfully decline the assignment." If they ask, try to explain your load. If it is not enough, tell them you have personal reasons for declining assignments.

If you notice that someone is manipulating you, stand up to him. Call him aside and explain to him that that kind of behavior is not acceptable.

Ask him to refrain from doing it and thank him in advance for ceasing to manipulate you.

As you do this, use assertive body language, stand tall (no matter if you are only five feet tall) and have an upright posture, don't forget direct eye contact, and never act as if you are afraid.

Most people in the world have insecurities. Even bullies tend to cover up their own insecurities by bullying others. To win in the game called life, you must learn to play to win. Knowing that most people have insecurities, you must learn to take advantage of this fact. Even if you are not that assertive, pretend that you are assertive and act assertively, but politely. Others will perceive you to be assertive, see it your way, and eventually do what you want them to do. More often, perception is reality.

Timing

In almost anything in life, timing is everything. Athletes, stockbrokers, and standup comedians will attest to this. Always check when the timing is right for assertiveness. Sometimes, you have to wait a little while before you say or do anything. Sometimes, you have to let others talk first and make a fool of themselves, and when you say your piece, everybody will just simply break into a loud applause in appreciation of your wisdom.

But you don't have to wait too long. Don't seek perfection in your craft before you can be assertive. Whether it is talking to the boss, taking a trip or telling a joke, you have to find the right timing. Many tend to wait for the perfect timing. More often, the perfect time never comes.

Sooner or later, you have to do what you have to do. Just prepare amply, analyze what you are going to do, have fallback positions in case you don't get the right results, and just do it.

Bouncing back

Being assertive is standing up for your rights. Learn your rights and others', too. If you think, someone is stepping on your toes, tell him politely to cease and desist from doing it. Sometimes, he does not know that his foot is on your toes. Learn your limitations. To avoid getting in trouble, make sure that when you exercise your rights, you are not trampling on others' rights. When you swing your arms, make sure that you don't hit someone else's nose.

When you make a mistake, it's not the end of the world. If you don't succeed at being assertive, it is normal. What is important is that you can bounce back confidently when you make errors. Don't be afraid that your assertiveness will put you in bad light. It happens to the best of them.

At the end of the day, to risk assertively and failed is still better than never to have risked at all.

(The author is chair of IR committee of the American Chamber of Commerce and chair of Ecop's long range policy planning committee. He is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. Feedback at ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com)

Firms face leadership crisis

NEW YORK—COMPANIES WORLDwide face a looming leadership crisis due to the retirement of baby boomers and rapid growth in Asia with half fearful they cannot develop the skills they need, a study released on Thursday said.

The survey by IBM's consulting arm interviewed 400 human resources executives from 40 countries and suggests companies are putting growth strategies at risk if they cannot identify and develop the next generation of leaders.

Baby boomers will drain companies of valuable knowledge when they retire, while multinational firms need to find people to lead their businesses in booming markets such as India and China, the study said.

"You've got this perfect storm of leadership crisis that is hitting the mature and maturing markets," said IBM's Eric Lesser, one of three coauthors of the study.

"Companies are really crunched both in terms of their current capacity of leadership and also their ability to develop leaders in the future.

Three-quarters of the people who responded said this was a significant workplace issue." The study found 88 percent of companies in the Asia Pacific region are most concerned with their ability to develop future leaders, followed by Latin America (74 percent); Europe, Middle East and Africa, (74 percent); Japan (73 percent); and North America (69 percent).

Fifty-two percent of human resources executives say their organizations may be unable to rapidly develop skills to meet current or future business needs. The study also found 36 percent of firms said employee skills fail to meet company priorities.

With competition for talent on the horizon, younger job applicants might want to list online gaming skills on their resumés, Lesser said. Many can be translated to realities of the new workplace.

"It requires using virtual communication techniques, everything from voiceover IP to instant messaging to e-mail," Lesser said.

Reuters

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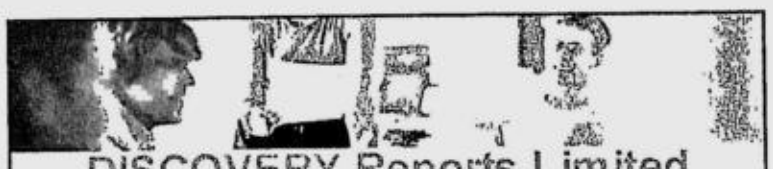
Email: **budjilayug@budjiroyal.com.ph / royalpineda@budjiroyal.com.ph**

Invitations for interview shall be notified through emails and/or telephone calls.



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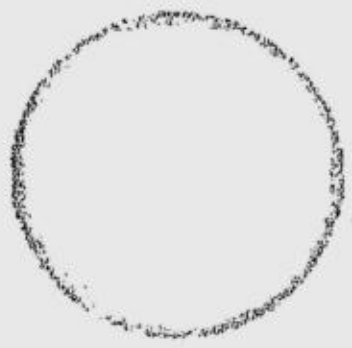

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Applicants should be able to meet the following selection criteria:

- More than 2 years experience in appraisal, monitoring and evaluation of small development or interfaith projects;
- Demonstrated high standards of oral and written English; proficient in oral/written Tagalog
- A demonstrated ability to foster and develop an effective network of local contacts
- Strong tertiary qualification is essential
- Demonstrated strong analytical and organisational skills
- Ability to undertake research and produce quality reports under limited supervision
- Computer literate specifically word processing (MS Word), spreadsheet (MS Excel) and database (MS Access)
- Strong interpersonal and management skills
- Proficiency in other dialects such as Maguindanaoan or Cebuano would be an advantage

A copy of the job description can be found on www.australia.com.ph/mnla/aboutus.html The position is available for a fixed term contract of one year, renewable subject to a review of performance and need. The successful candidate will receive a gross monthly salary of PhP 53,506.41 inclusive of 13th month pay, recreation leave and separation pay. He/ she will also be entitled to performance bonus and comprehensive health insurance. The selected candidate should be able to commence as soon as possible.

Applications should be received no later than COB 5 November 2007. An application letter of no more than two pages addressing each of the above selection criteria, along with a resumé, transcript of records, and names of two referees who are able to comment on work performance should be addressed to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES SECTION
Australian Embassy Manila
Level 23 Tower 2, RCBC Plaza,
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
or e- mail : manila.recruitment@dfat.gov.au
Please use the position title as the subject heading

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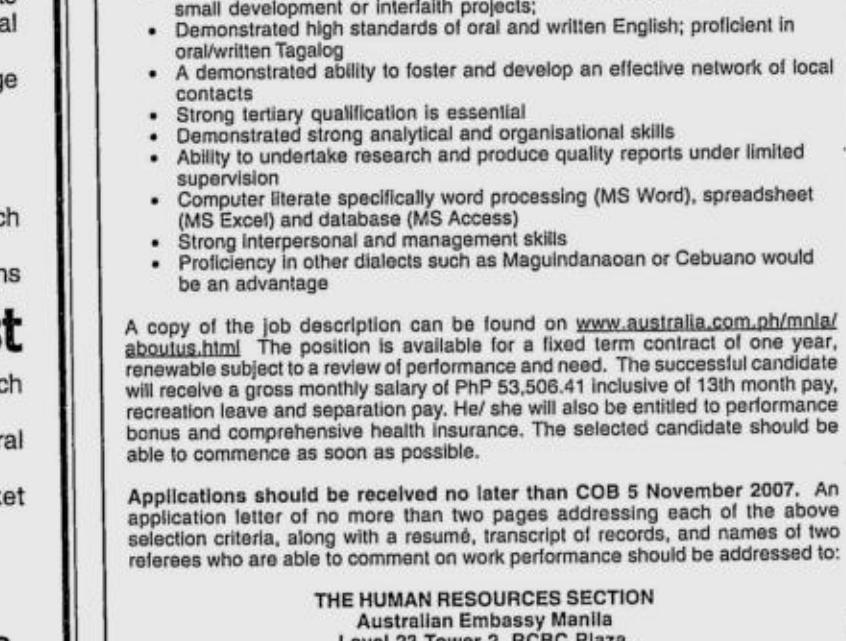

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Selection Step	Date	Venue
I. *Written Technical Exam*	30 & 31 of October 05-06 of November	DTI Makati
II. *Panel Interview*	14, 15 & 16 of November	DTI Makati
III. *Simulation Exercise*	21, 22, 23 of November	DTI Makati
IV. *Psychological Appraisal*	05, 06, 07 of December	QC
V. *EXCOM Interview*	19 of December	DTI Makati

Note:

1. Each selection step is a hurdle point. Candidate has to meet the required rating per selection step to be able to proceed to the succeeding activity
2. Specific date per selection step will be pre-assigned to successful candidates
3. Candidates who pass the psychological examination will be scheduled to take the Career Service Professional Eligibility Exam. CSC Examination date will be announced later.

CORE REQUISITES

Education, Relevant Training, Age Limit & Citizenship:

- Bachelor's degree preferably in Business, Economics, International Studies, Law or Engineering. (*Master's Degree is an advantage*)
- At least 25 years old and not more than 35 years of age upon appointment by the President of the Philippines
- Filipino Citizen with unimpaired integrity
- Preferably a Civil Service Professional Eligible or Board Passer of any related Philippine Licensure Examination (e.g. Bar, Accountancy, Engineering etc)
- Eight (8) hours relevant training
- Good physical health

Experience and Skills:

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- Fluency in English and preferably other major foreign languages
- Highly developed IT skills

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Secure application forms from:

Human Resource Development Service
6/F Trade & Industry Building,
361 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

Or

Visit www.business.gov.ph
for downloadable forms

Applications received after 5 November 2007 will not be accepted.
Incomplete applications will not be evaluated/ processed.

Submit application to:

Asst. Secretary Maria Lourdes T. Baua
6/F Trade & Industry Building,
361 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
E-mail: hrds@dti.gov.ph

SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.

The Tampakan Copper-Gold Project managed by Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI) has the following vacancies for regular position :

SECURITY OPERATIONS OFFICER

The position will be responsible for the implementation of the Company's security policies, undertaking internal investigations, designing procedures, programmes, and systems to safeguard personnel, facilities, equipment, and materials. Salary is commensurate with the role and responsibilities.

As a minimum, the ideal candidate will :

- Preferably be a graduate of PMA / PNPA
- Have at least 15 years supervisory experience
- Have experience in supervising field security operations
- Be proficient in MS Office Applications
- Possess excellent oral and written communication
- Be able to relate across all levels of the organization
- Hold a professional driver's license (Restriction Codes 1, 2, 3)

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The successful candidate will be responsible for the strategic direction of the Company's communication plans and achieve the desired project positioning outcomes. The functions will cover corporate imaging and branding, advertising and advocacy, marketing and crisis communications and issues management, and support the community and government relations teams.

As a minimum, the position requires the following :

- Masteral or Doctorate Degree, preferably in communications
- 10 years work experience in communications and communications management
- Excellent written and verbal communication abilities
- Proficient in MS Office application
- Has editorial and people skills
- Excellent in communication planning, strategic communications, project management, advocacy and marketing campaigns

RESEARCHER / WRITER

To be based in Makati, the role is primarily designed to contribute to the positioning of the Tampakan Project by writing and producing different materials for various media as prescribed in the communication plans and strategies and manage media relations in the national level.

Minimum requirements include :

- A Bachelor's Degree in Communications, Journalism, Research or any related course
- At least 3 years of work that requires research, writing and media relations
- Very good coordination, networking, and public relations skills
- Excellent writing ability in news, features, and information-education materials scripts
- Excellent language proficiency in English, Filipino and Visayan dialect

Qualified applicants are invited to submit their application letter with comprehensive résumé and Transcript of Records not later than 05 November 2007 to:

HUMAN RESOURCES
Sagittarius Mines, Inc.
JPM Building, Bula-Lagao Road
General Santos City
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Fax No : (083) 552-8405
Email : **humanresources@sml.com.ph**

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NOTE : Applicants will be interviewed on Monday, November 5, 2007, 3:00 PM at the Boardroom, H.R. Reyes Computer Science Hall

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a) Transcript of records
b) Curriculum Vitaé
c) Two (2) 1 ½ x 1 ½ Pictures
d) Character References

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

Get a chance to take home these cool stuff from Walt Disney's 'The Game Plan'!
Page 2

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 83

Living with the dead

By Ruth L. Navarra

A GROUP OF BOYS RACE old tires on a street with a few slow-moving cars. For the most part, they are unmindful of the people walking around them. Their little game is perfect for the breezy and cloudy afternoon.

What makes this game different is that their playground is inside the tall walls of the Manila South Cemetery.

The eldest member of the group who initially seemed content with watching his friends suddenly shifts his attention to a family that just arrived. He boldly approaches them with a crescent-shaped knife on one hand and starts talking to them.

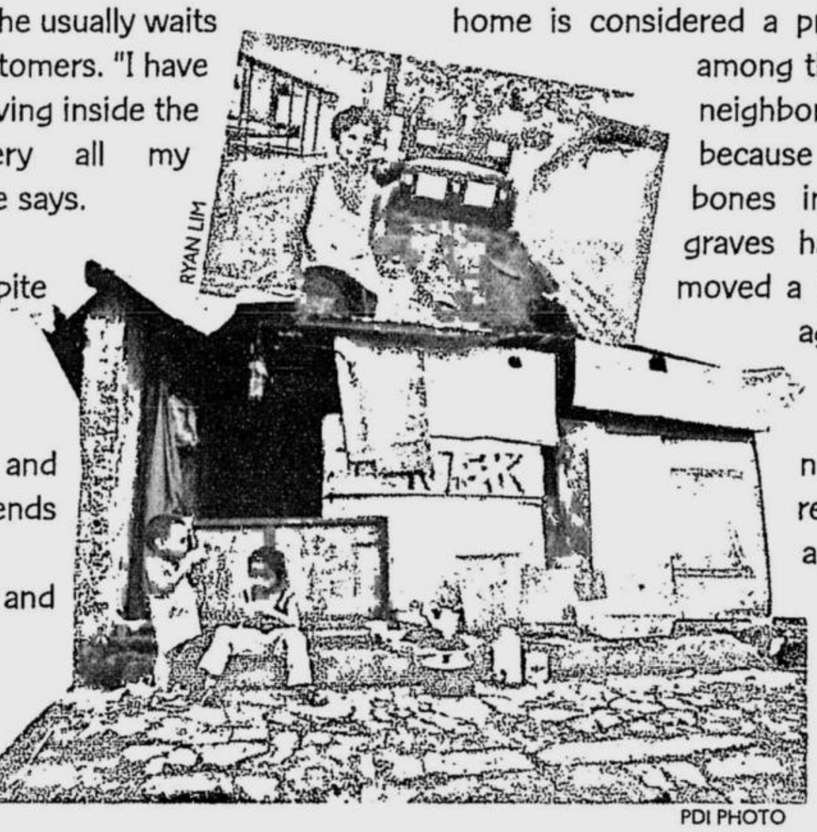
"Do you need someone to clean for you," he asks in Filipino.

RYAN LIM

This is how Alvin, 13, earns money for his family of seven. He cleans mausoleums, clears the overgrown weeds and applies a fresh coat of paint on old tombs.

"On a good day, I could earn P100," he says. The best earning season for him is All Souls' Day.

His home is a few meters from where he usually waits for customers. "I have been living inside the cemetery all my life," he says.


RYAN LIM

PDI PHOTO

Despite the eerie set-up, Alvin and his friends would laugh and shrug when you ask them if they believe in ghosts and zombies.

"I think they exist but I have never seen one. I have felt their presence before. You would feel the hair on your arms rise for no reason and you will feel cold. But what can you do except ignore them," he says.

Ten-year-old Robert pipes in and excitedly shares about the day he accidentally stumbled on a human hand. "We just buried it again," Robert says.

Alvin's family resides in one of the open lots in the cemetery. His home is considered a prime spot among their living neighbors because the bones inside the graves have been moved a long time ago. This means there are no visiting relatives and friends of the dead who would ask his family to move out.

In their makeshift home, they make use of tarps as roofs. There are no locks, doors and windows.

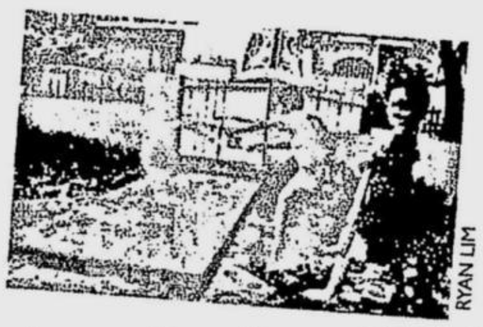
They take a bath at the foot of their sleeping area, using water collected from a nearby water pump. They don't have electricity. There are no electric fans to soothe them on a hot day and nothing to protect them on a stormy night. They cook using wood and an old-fashioned stove.

"The government has asked us to leave and we have no choice but to follow. We will probably sleep on the streets," Alvin's mom Elma says.

She admits, however, that the government has given them a house in Bagong Silang, Caloocan. She said that another family lives there now.

"Yes, we have a house, but what about our livelihood? Where do we get our food? Tending the graves is the only thing that my family knows how to do," she says.

Alvin had to stop going to school


RYAN LIM

because his mother could not afford to pay for his tuition. He still hopes that someday, he'll be able to work as a soldier and fight for the poor people.

But for now, it's all about making a living among the dead.

Guyito's Corral

WELCOME TO MY CORRAL!

This is your own special space, where you can express your thoughts and feelings about anything under the sun in the form of essays, poems, letters and even illustrations!

Send all contributions to ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!

Junior INQUIRER

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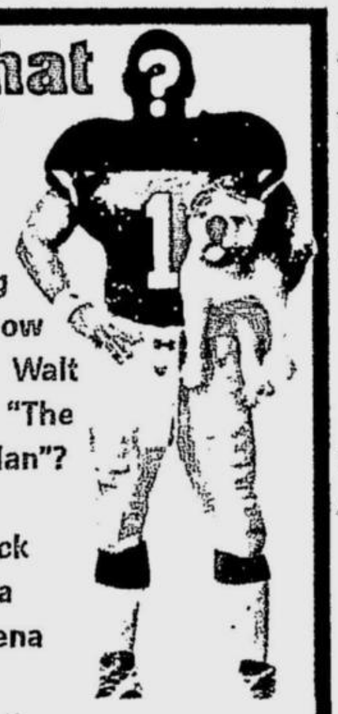
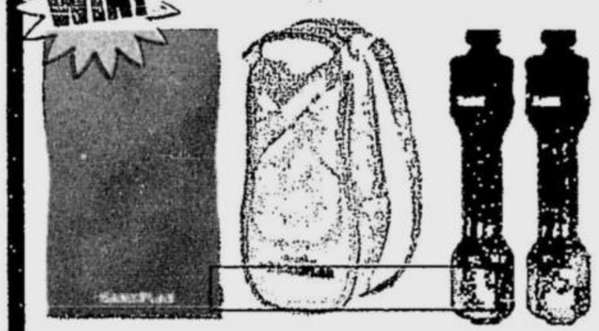
Name that champ!



Who is the former wrestling champion now starring in Walt Disney's "The Game Plan"?

A) The Rock
B) Batista
C) John Cena

WIN!



Send us your answer at ji@inquirer.com.ph. Ten winners aged 7 to 14 will get a dumbbell water bottle and a sports towel (boys) or a shoe bag and a sports towel (girls). Don't forget to include your name, age and address. Deadline for entries is on November 9, 2007.

Walt Disney Pictures presents
THE GAME PLAN

Letter

DEAR JI!

I liked the issue about finding beauty in animals, that's why I decided to write about my pet hamster, Chubby.

Chubby is an albino hamster. He was my birthday present last year. At first, I was scared of him. But after a week, I told myself: "hey, he won't bite you!"

I started carrying him around our house. Whenever I got bored, I would visit him in his cage. My dad was scared of him, although he thought Chubby was a cute mouse.

I hated cleaning Chubby's cage. But no, I never thought of giving him away just because I hated cleaning his cage.

Chubby died last July. He is now buried in our backyard. Sometimes I would visit him there.

If you have a pet, be 100% sure that you would love him.

Niña Anjelika L. Dela Cruz
11 years old
Tacloban, Leyte

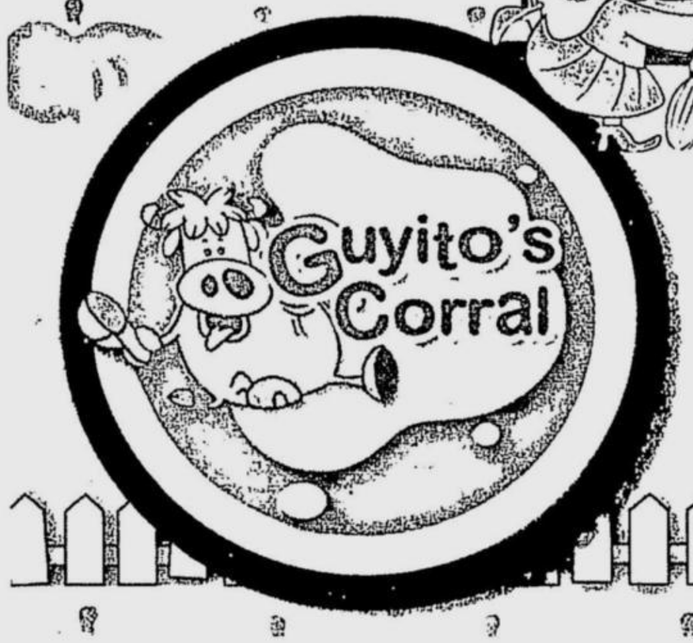
You win!

We were so touched by your story Niña! We hope you find another furry friend.

—JI Staff

Niña gets a Bratz Itsy Bitsy, the smallest version of Bratz Babyz. Bratz Itsy Bitsy is distributed by Ban Kee Trading.

Want to get to know other JI readers like you? Want to write to our Snoops? Or do you simply want to be the first to know about JI promos? Join our yahoogroup! Just send a blank e-mail to jireaders-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



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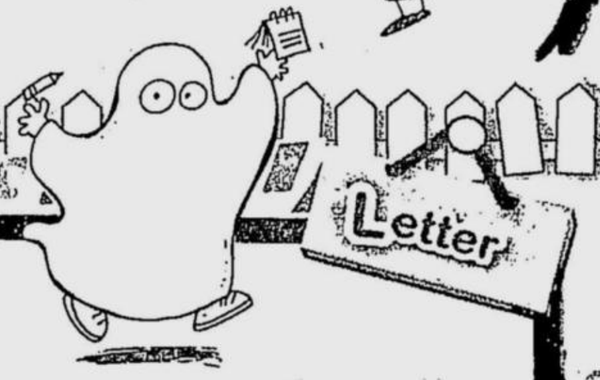

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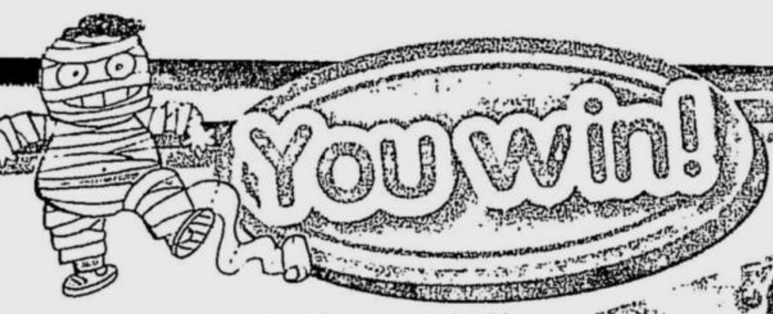

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Itsy So Cute! Bitsy Bratz®

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2006 Best Children's Newspaper Awards Philippines

Name that champ!

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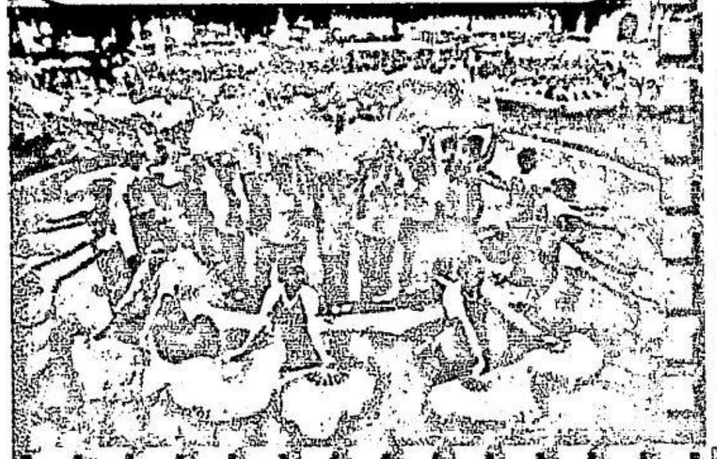
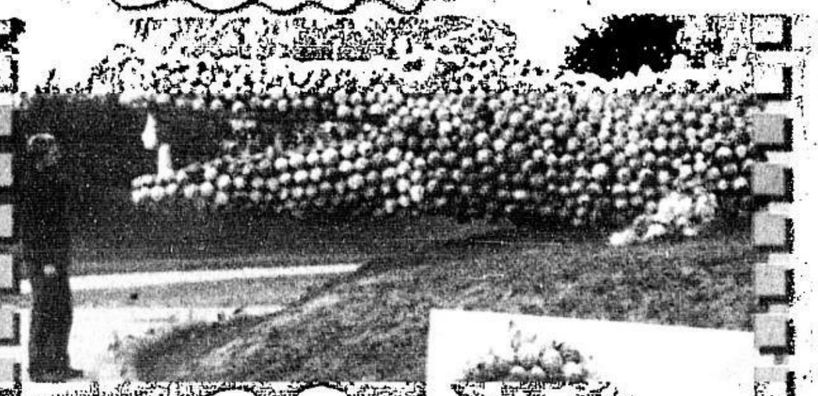
Camarines Sur, PHILIPPINES



Let the games begin!

STUDENTS from the Camarines Sur National High School perform during the opening of the Philippine Olympic Festival Bicol-Southern Tagalog qualifying leg held at the Quezon Plaza in Naga. **Raffy Lerma**

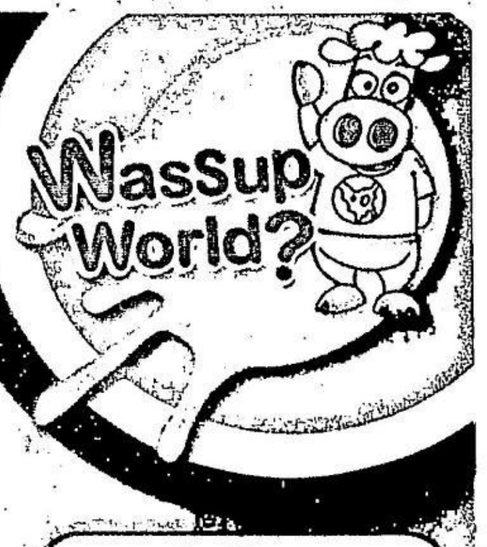


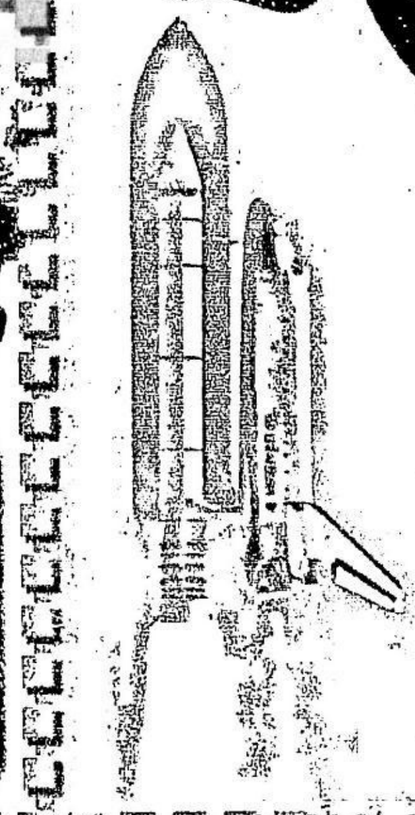
Hartheim-Feldkirch, GERMANY

Pumpkin pride

EVER met a vegetarian crocodile? Maybe this one is, seeing as it's made of pumpkins! A farmer in Hartheim-Feldkirch came up with this gimmick to show off his products. We hope he has enough pumpkins left for jack o' lanterns! **AP**

Florida, USA





Launch time

THE SPACE shuttle Discovery lifts off from the Kennedy Space Center on Oct. 23 to embark on a14-day mission. The mission involves fixing up the International Space Station, to prepare the way for Europe's first permanent laboratory in orbit. **Reuters**

Think Out Loud!

My ideal Halloween costume

Jeufro Jann Romasito Lejano, 6, Cainta, Rizal

Jeufro Jadge Maxsier Lejano, 9, Cainta, Rizal

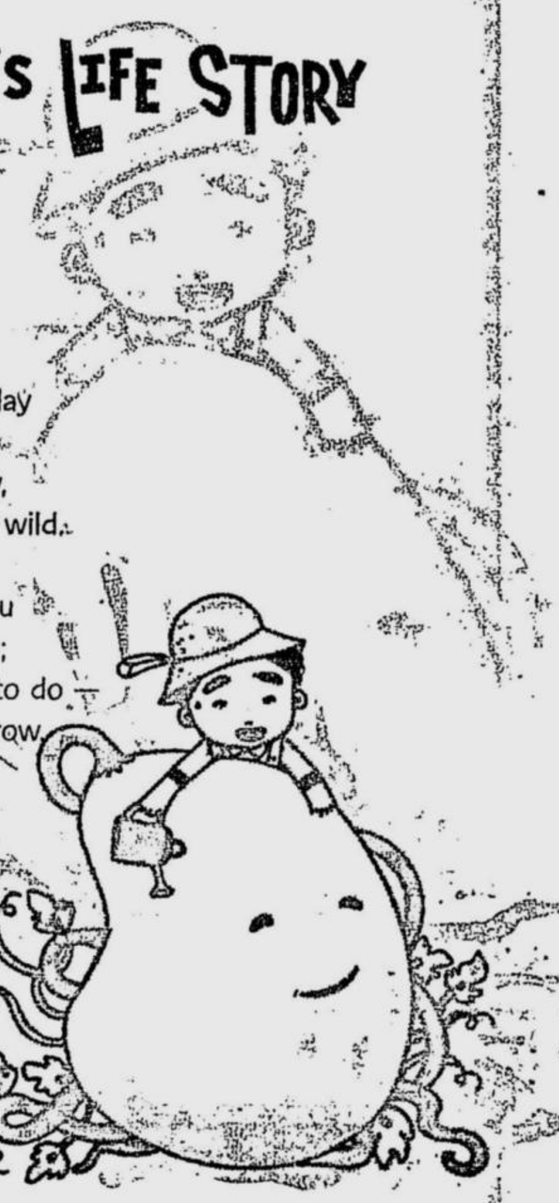
Kathryn Bernardo, 11, Quezon City

Joshua Dionisio, 12, Quezon City

Joel Jerome Morales, 8, Cainta, Rizal

Martina Vanna Reyes, 7, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

A Squash's Life Story



As all squashes do,
From a seed came I,
Sown by Farmer Lou,
A month past July.

He cared for me each day
As if I were a child —
Keeping stinkbugs away,
Letting no weeds grow wild.

And my gratitude to Lou
I really wanted to show;
There's only one thing to do —
So I tried my best to grow.

And in seventy days,
When my vines had grown long;
I was tan-skinned, tip to base;
Still young, but three pounds strong.

Lou shouted out loud
When he saw my size;
And it made me proud,
Like I won first prize.

But short-lived was my luck,
For the very next day,
In his dirty, old truck,
A man took me away.

To the market he brought me;
There, I was held, poked and told:
"This one looks ripe and ready."
On Hallow's Eve I was sold.

On a street quite narrow,
In the home of the Corrs,
I learned with much sorrow —
I was dinner's main course.

Now that I've been stewed,
There's no more to tell;
For soon I'll be food,
So I say, "Farewell!"

For or by Kids

A Pumpkin's Tale

Like Squash, my cousin,
From seeds I too crawl;
With vigor burstin'
Do my brisk vines sprawl.

A true gardener knows
He'll only have success,
If pumpkin seeds he sows,
As some wise men profess.

So of course I made a vow
Not to be someone's dinner
To the pot I shall not bow —
Oh no, I am a winner!

My grief was great, you see,
When I heard how Squash died;
If that happened to me,
It would damage my pride.

In my pumpkin patch,
I am without peer;
In size I've no match,
"King" they call me here.

One day to my surprise,
To the patch came this boy;
He said I was his prize,
And brought me home with joy.

Under the Halloween moon,
The boy started to turn me,
With a thin knife and a spoon —
His Jack O' Lantern to be.

As a candle burned bright
Inside my hollowed core,
He gently placed me right
By their adorned front door.

Scary but handsome,
Not to be forgot
For decades to come;
My life's wasted not.

Poems by Michelle B. Villanueva, 13
Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Illustrations by Bleps Carlos

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BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

ENTER THE BATTLEFIELD OF LEGENDS! VALKYRIE, THE FREE-TO-PLAY SERVER, IS NOW UP! NEW HEADGEAR! 5 WIZARD HATS AND THE SATELLITE HAIRBAND! CELEBRATE EPISODE XV: RACHEL! FOR DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH

Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG www.leveluppgames.ph

Valkyrie Liberty Interlude

THE STORY SO FAR...

MANY MEMBERS OF OUR HEROES' GUILD HAD LEFT. FOUR NEW MEMBERS WERE RECRUITED TO FILL THEIR RANKS:

TAEYANG, TAEKWON MASTER

DAL, SOUL LINKER

JETHRO, GUNSLINGER

AND HARUKO, NINJA

THEY JOINED THE THREE REMAINING MEMBERS: MARDEN GODSHAMMER, HIGH PRIEST AND GUILD MASTER, REEMI ALSHOND, HIGH WIZARD, AND WICKS, SNIPER.

THEIR MISSION: RESCUE THE VALKYRIE IMPRISONED IN THE THANATOS TOWER BY THE ARNAFELTIANS.

USING AN ENCHANTED BROOCH WHICH FORCED ITS WEARER TO OBEY ANY AND ALL COMMANDS, OUR HEROES HAD THE VILLAIN VARGAS, PALADIN, GUIDE THEM THROUGH THE TOWER.

Story by: Mark Navarro
Pencils and Inks by: Jhomar Soriano
Colors by: Aldin Viray & Jon Zamar

OUR HEROES FOUGHT MANY MONSTERS ALONG THE WAY, INCLUDING BOSS MONSTERS!

THEY FINALLY ARRIVED AT THE TOP FLOOR WHERE THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD FOUND THE VALKYRIE

HOWEVER, IT TURNED OUT SHE WASN'T THEIR VALKYRIE, BUT ONE THAT HAD SIDED WITH THE ARNAFELTIANS!

SHE AND VARGAS ESCAPED, BUT THEY LEFT OUR HEROES IN "GOOD COMPANY"

WITH THE LEGENDARY WARRIOR, THANATOS!

OR RATHER, A PHANTOM OF HIS FORMER SELF AFTER BEING IMPRISONED IN THE TOWER FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS!

EXHAUSTED AND INJURED, OUR HEROES USED STALLING TACTICS TO AVOID DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH THANATOS' PHANTOM...

AND ESCAPED THROUGH THE TOWER'S SKYLIGHT.

WITH SPECIAL HEADGEAR BROUGHT BY MARDEN AS AN EXIT STRATEGY, OUR HEROES DESCENDED TO THE GROUND BELOW.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.

NOONG ARAW E HINDI KAMI GANITO PAG ALL-SOULS DAY.

NOONG ARAW E HINDI KAMI UMA-ARKILA NG MAGGU-GUPIT NG DAMO AT MAGLILINIS NG PUNTOD.

KAMI MISMO ANG GUMAGAWA N'YAN.

NOONG ARAW E HINDI KAMI BUMI-BILI NG BULAKLAK.

KAMI MISMO ANG PUMIPITAS AT GUMA-GAWA NG FLORAL ARRANGEMENT.

NOONG ARAW E HINDI KAMI BUMI-BILI NG PAGKAIN SA MGA FOOD STALLS.

KAMI MISMO ANG NAGLULUTO NG BAON NAMIN.

NOONG ARAW E WALA 'YANG MGA LOUDSPEAKERS AT MINI-STEREOS NA NAGPAPATUGTOG NG MASASAYANG KANTA.

NOONG ARAW E TALAGANG TAHIMIK AT VERY SOLEMN ANG ALL-SOULS DAY NAMIN.

POL 28 OCT 07

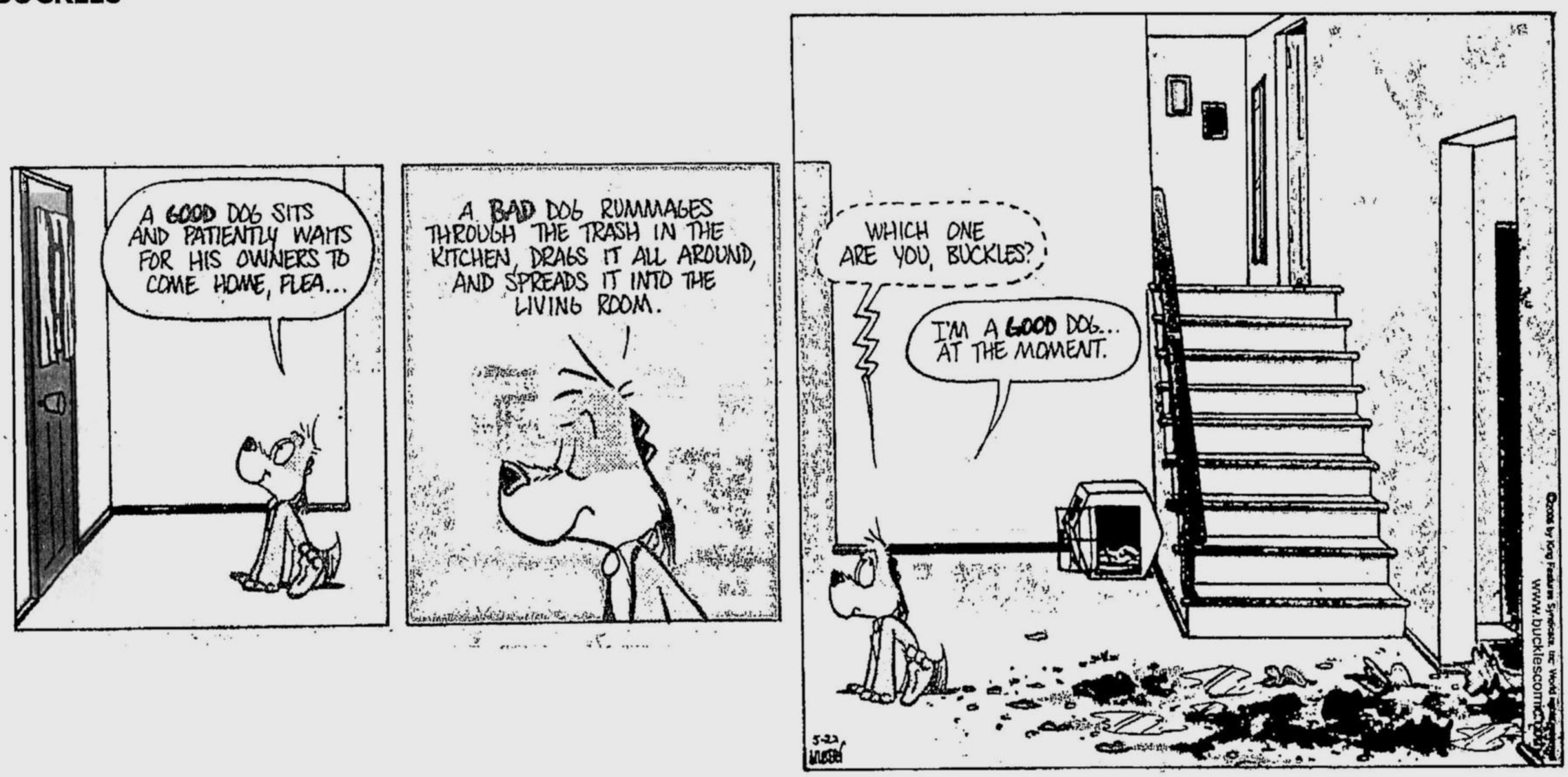
KAYA NGA BA MAS MASAYANG MAGPUNTA SA SEMENTERYO NGAYON KESA NOONG ARAW.

NAKENINO NA BA 'YUNG TAGAY??

'KAW NAMAN ANG BANGKA.

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

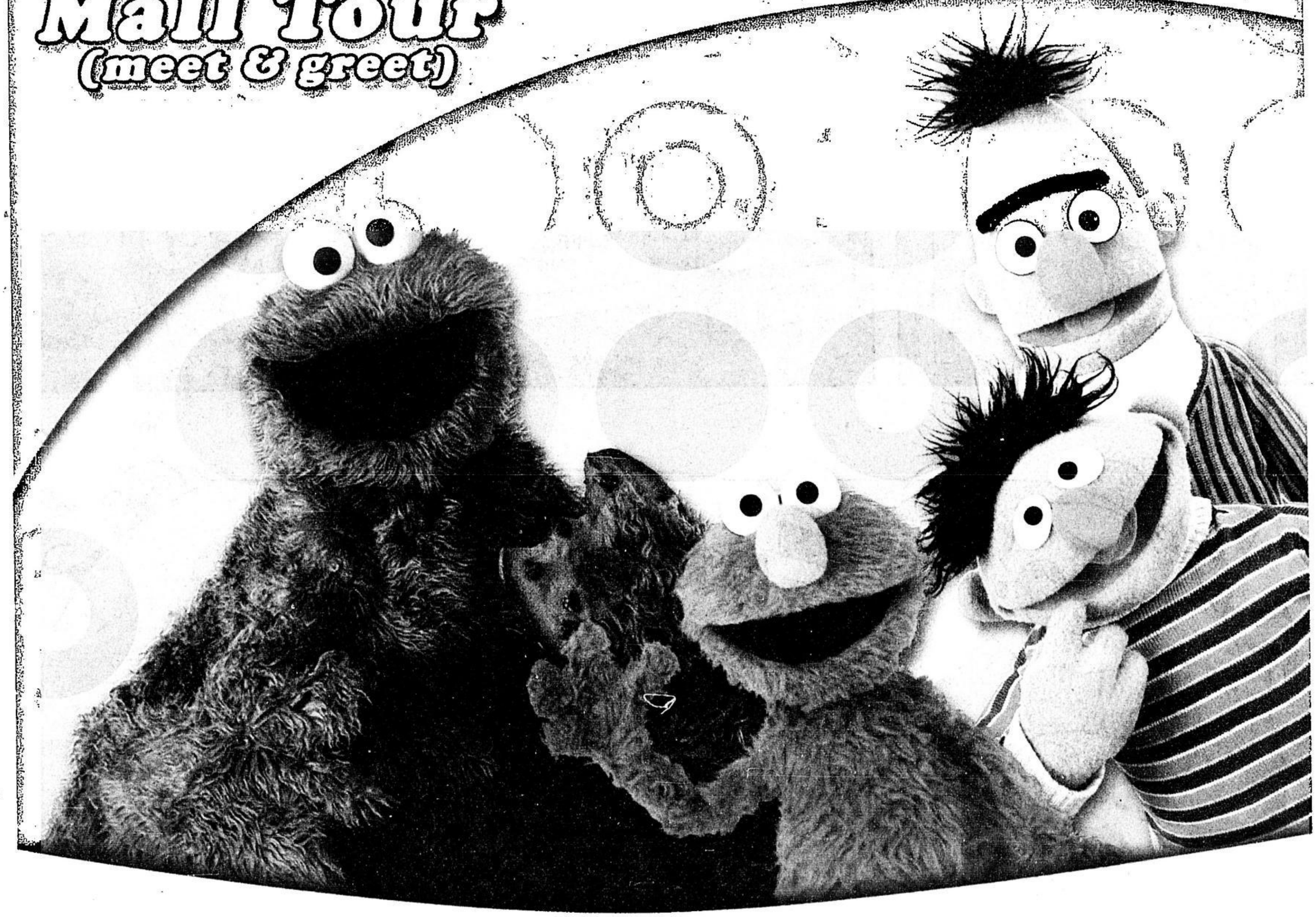
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO

SESAME STREET

play with me SESAME

Mall Tour
(meet & greet)



Oct. 27, 2007
Alabang Town Center

Oct. 28, 2007
Trinoma

Nov. 3, 2007
Market, Market

Ayala Malls

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Memories

A Special Supplement on the Eternal Care Industry

SPECIAL NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENT Philippine Copyright 2002 by the Philippine Daily Inquirer SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2007

The Ascending

I have passed a mountain peak
and my soul is soaring in the
Firmament of complete
and unbound freedom;
I am far, far away, my companions,
and the clouds are
Hiding the hills from my eyes.

The valleys are becoming flooded
with an ocean of silence, and the
Hands of oblivion are engulfing
the roads and the houses;
The prairies and fields are disap-
pearing behind a white specter
That looks like the spring cloud,
yellow as the candlelight
And red as the twilight.

The songs of the waves
and the hymns of the streams
Are scattered, and the voices
of the throngs reduced to silence;
And I can hear naught
but the music of Eternity
In exact harmony
with the spirit's desires.
I am cloaked in full whiteness;
I am in comfort; I am in peace.

Khalil Gibran

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CANA

A HAPPY COLUMBARY

By Fr. Rolando S. DelaGoza, C.M.
President Emeritus of Adamson University

IT MAY SOUND LIKE A CONTRADICTION TO CALL A columbary happy but right below the huge Santuario de San Vicente de Paul (Tandang Sora) is located one of the largest columbaries in the Philippines and it is indeed a place of happiness. The atmosphere, the ambience, the people and the services it provides make of it a place of loving memories and contemplation for the people left behind by their loved ones.

The ambience is conducive to happiness and happy memories. You enter the 5.2 hectares of the St. Vincent's Seminary compound which is full of trees and greenery and see the imposing but beautiful church. Then somebody leads you under the cavernous underground facilities where the columbary is located and quickly, you experience its prayerful and loving atmosphere. There are compact gardens with bonzai trees, fountains, decorative stones, and containers (kawa in the dialect) for floating the lighted candles. The colors, though subdued and subtle, make an impression of happiness instead of mourning.

But what makes it a happier place are the people you encounter during the numerous celebrations during the year. There are four Sunday Masses celebrated before thousands of people right above the columbary. Whole families with numerous children enjoy the singing, the camaraderie and the religious festivities. After the Mass dozens upon dozens of children run to the altar to greet the celebrant and co-celebrants showing how the Eucharist is indeed a center of their lives.

Throughout the year, thousands flock to the Santuario de San Vicente de Paul for the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul (Sept. 27), the feast of the Miraculous Medal (Nov. 27), the Simbang Gabi Novena and other celebrations. For example, last Dec. 3,2006 more than a thousand people were present to see the lighting of the giant Christmas tree right in front of the Santuario.

The Santuario staff epitomizes the slogan "Service with a Smile," for they provide an excellent service with a beautiful smile. The young director himself, Fr. Rizalino P. Garcia, CM will conquer you with his gentle and serviceful mannerisms. The happiness generated by the young staff radiates to all who visit the Columbary of St. Vincent de Paul.

It is no wonder that the Santuario received the excellence awards given by the National Product Quality Excellence Awards and the Seal of Product Quality as Best Columbary 2005 and by the Global Awards for Marketing Excellence 2006.

St. Peter Chapels celebrates 2nd St. Peter DeathCare Week

50% OFF!!! – NOT ON APPAREL, not on food, but on Memorial Services! What has been regarded as a deviant and aggressive blue ocean strategy takes the entire Philippines by storm as St. Peter Chapels opens its 2nd St. Peter DeathCare Week Celebration with huge billboards (along EDSA, NLEX, SLEX and in Cebu and Davao!) that feature an angel, a casket and a big, red 50% Off !

The St. Peter DeathCare Week Celebration which was pioneered by ST. PETER CHAPELS last year covering the period from October 27 to November 2, 2006 is a public service program by ST. PETER CHAPELS as it joins all Filipinos nationwide in celebrating the week of Undas (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day).

Consistent with the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programs and as its main public service offer, St. Peter Chapels is giving a huge 50% discount on all At-Need and Upgraded memorial services in all its 121 chapels nationwide beginning Oct. 27 to Nov. 2 only. St. Peter Chapels is also leading a Linis Nitso Program in selected cemeteries nationwide from Oct. 27 to 28. St. Peter Tents will also be set up in selected cemeteries on Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, to provide assistance to our fellow Filipinos who will visit their departed loved ones on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

As part of the St. Peter DeathCare Week Celebration, the St. Peter Ad/Commercial will be aired from October 29 to Nov. 4, 2007 at your favorite cinemas nationwide.

Watch out for the 2nd St. Peter DeathCare Week Celebration – a marvelous blend of the rich Filipino tradition during Undas and the St. Peterian way of serving the Filipino nation!

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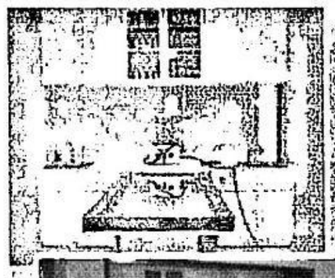
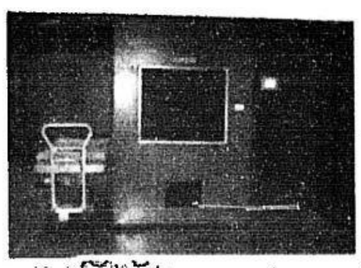
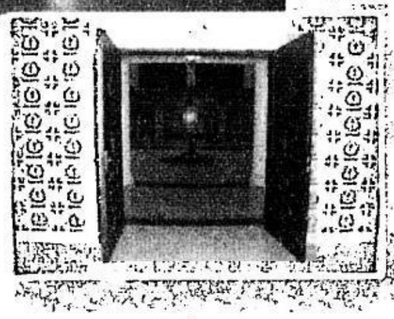
CHAPEL & FAMILY ROOM

MORGUE & VIEWING ROOM

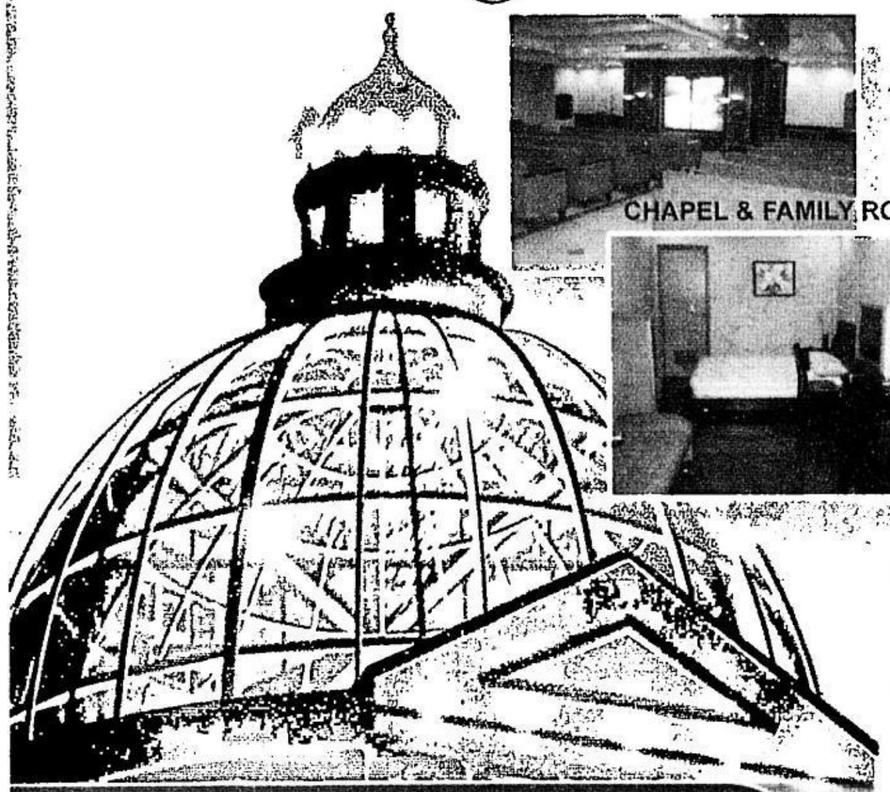


CREMATORY & COLUMBARY





ELEVATOR & ESCALATOR



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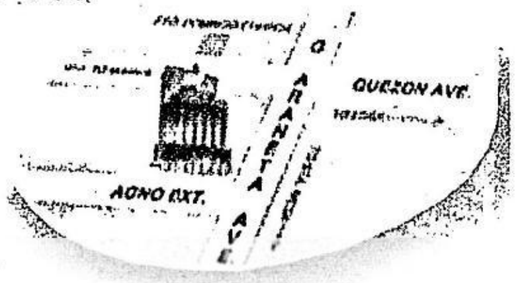

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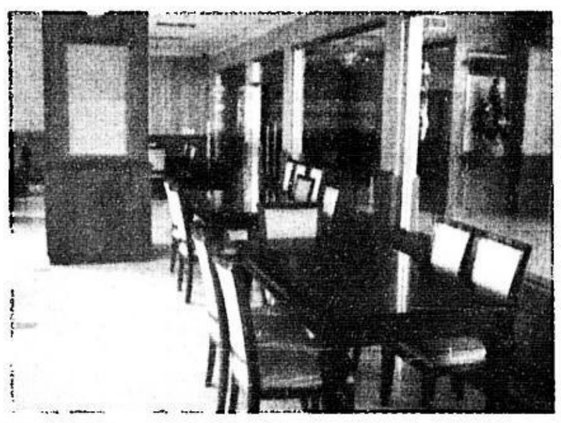
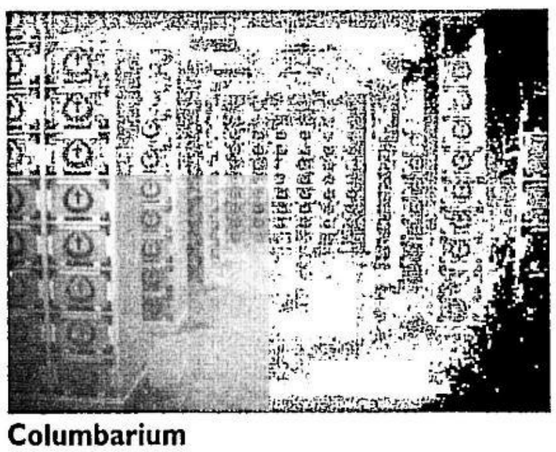

Reception area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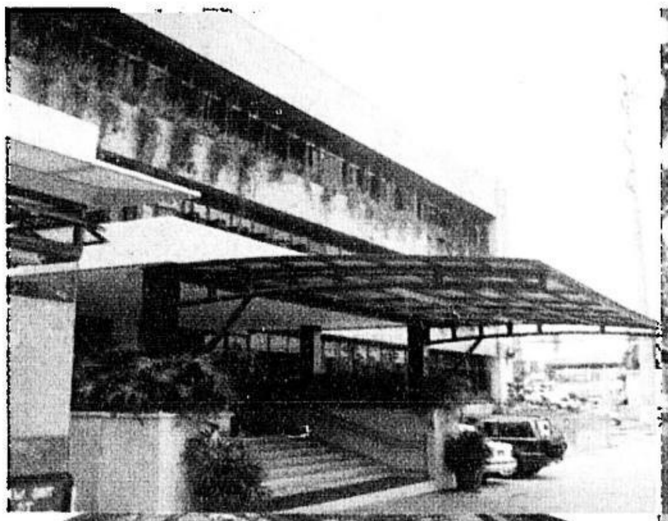

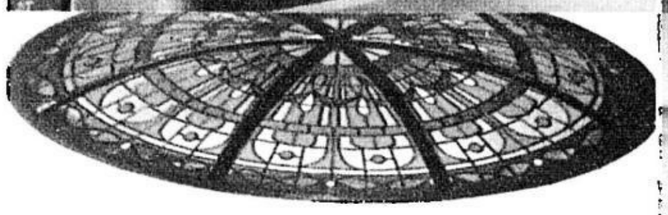

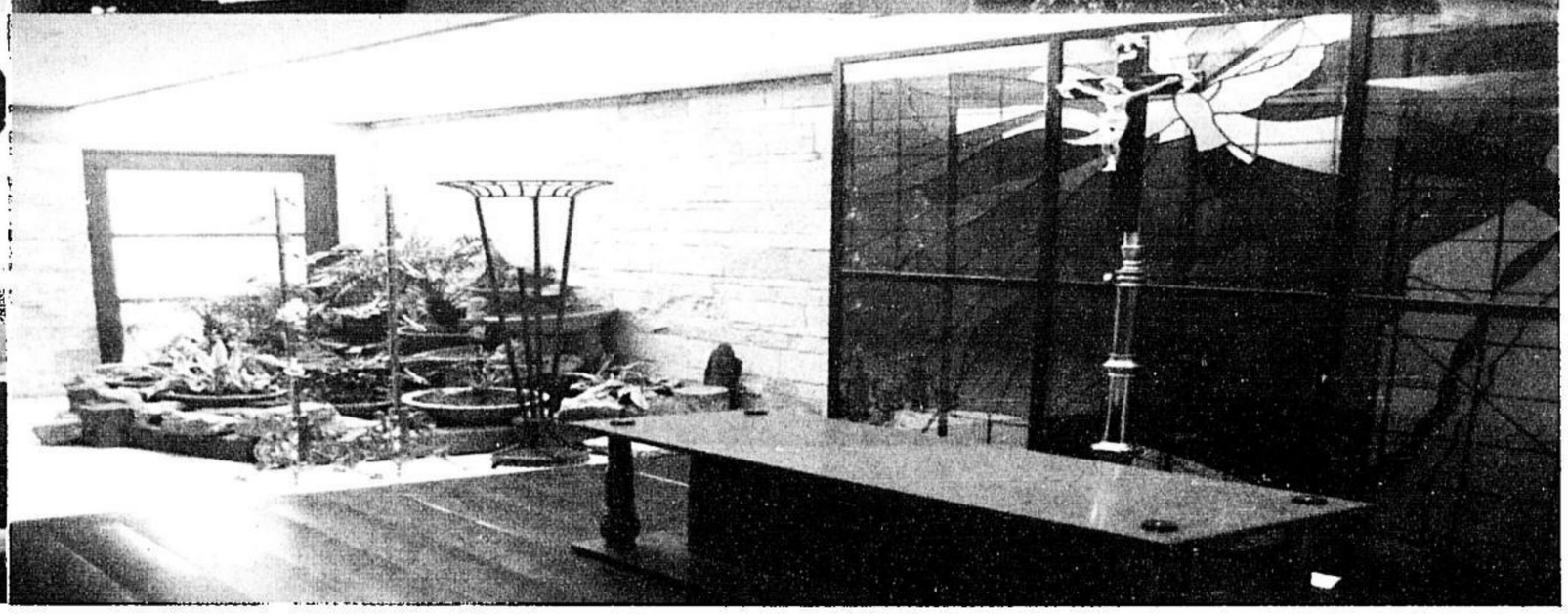

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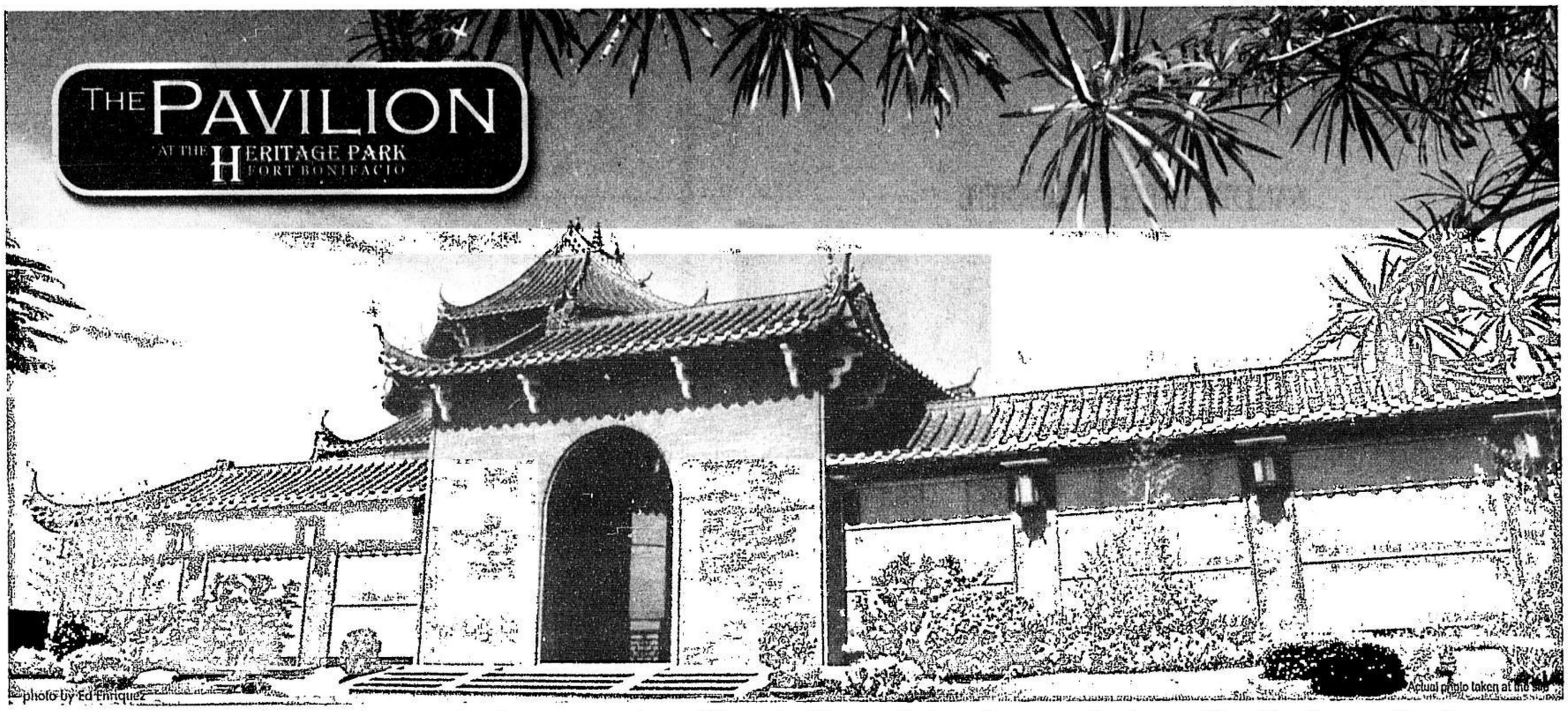

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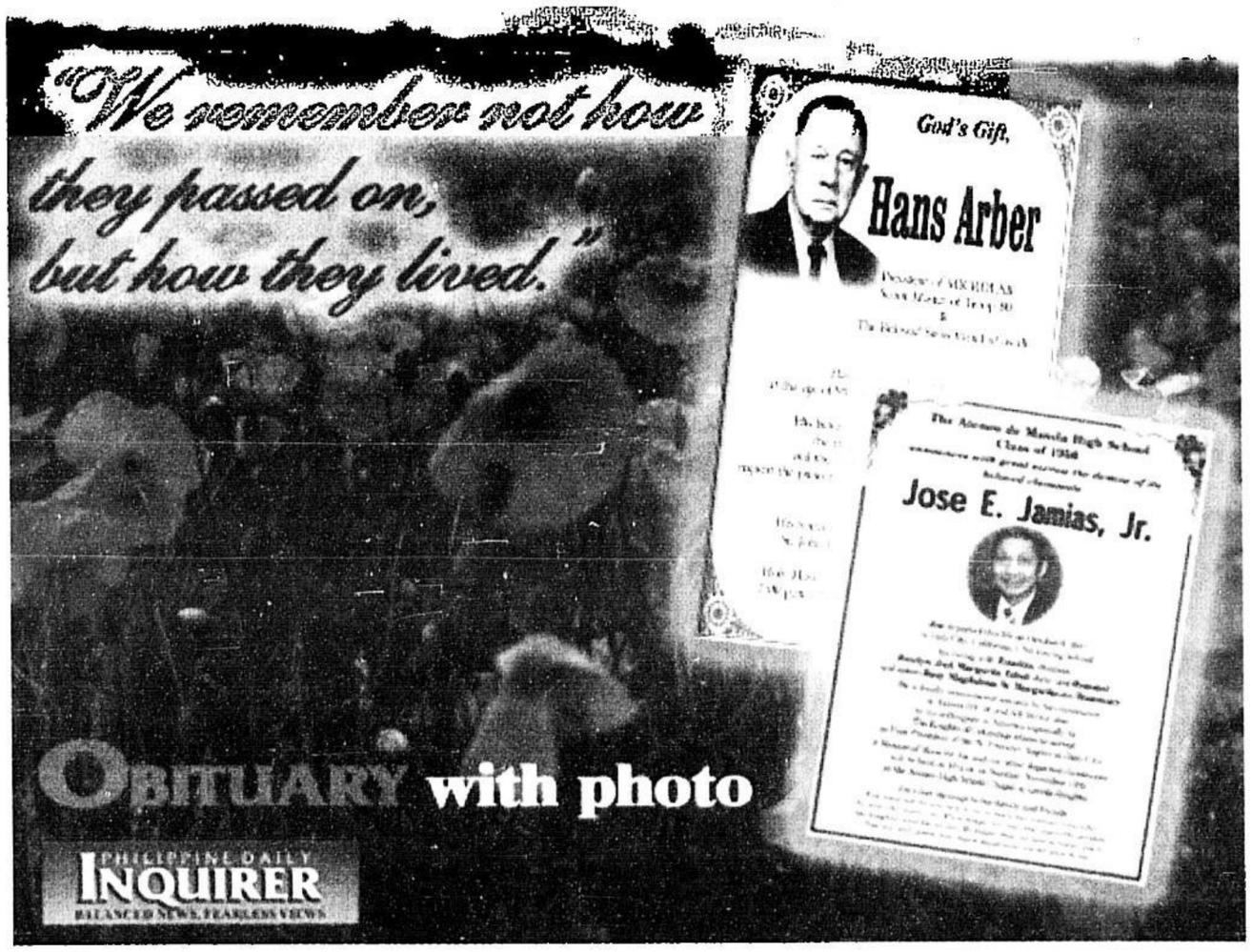
John 3:16



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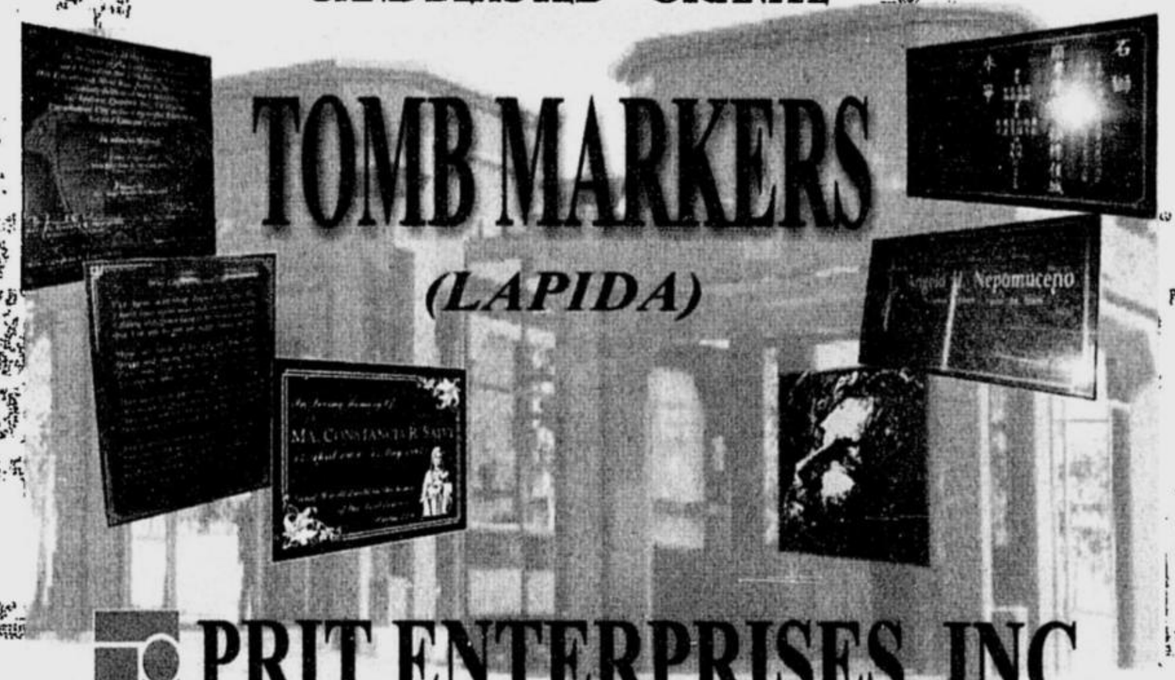

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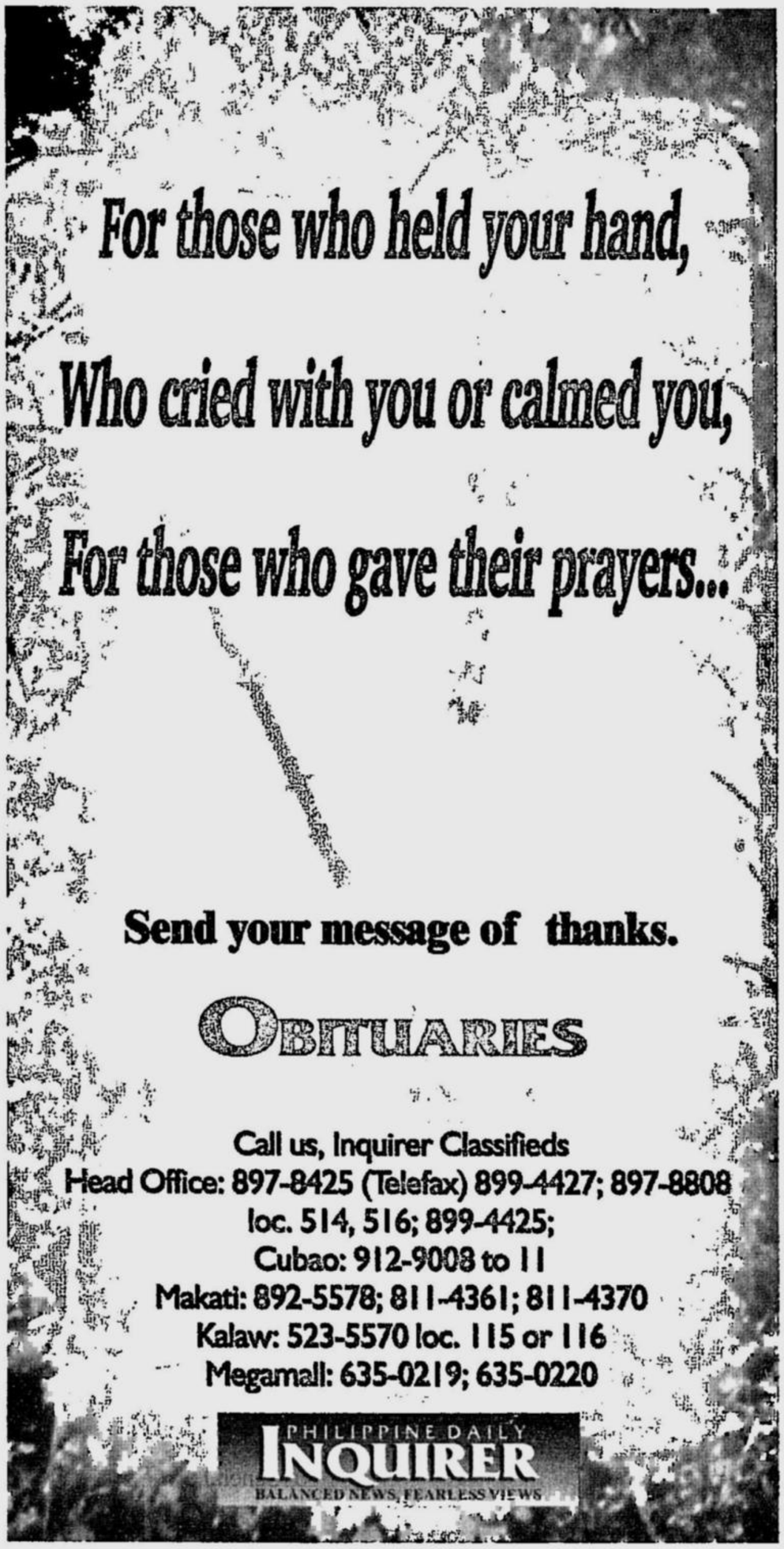

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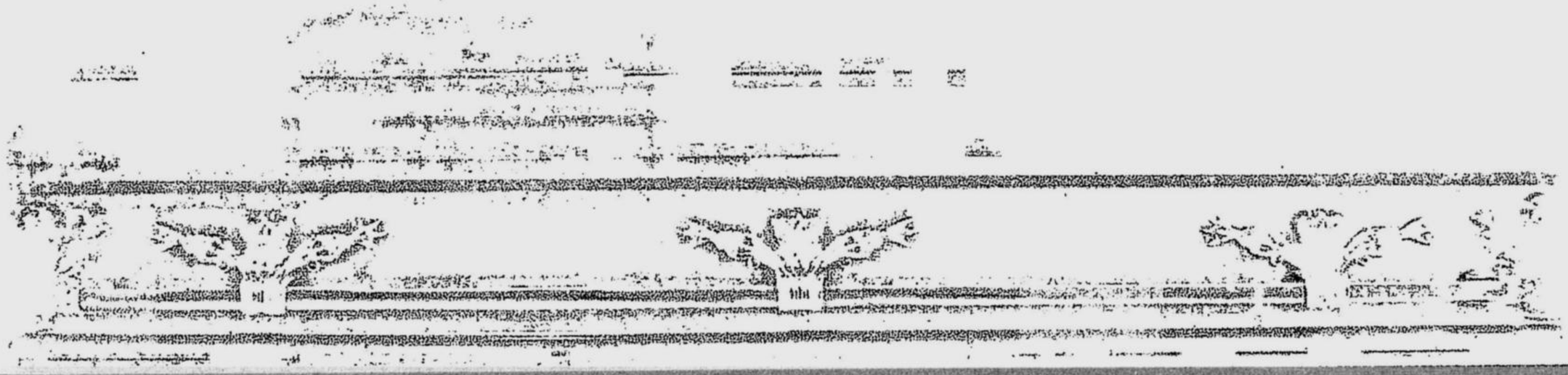

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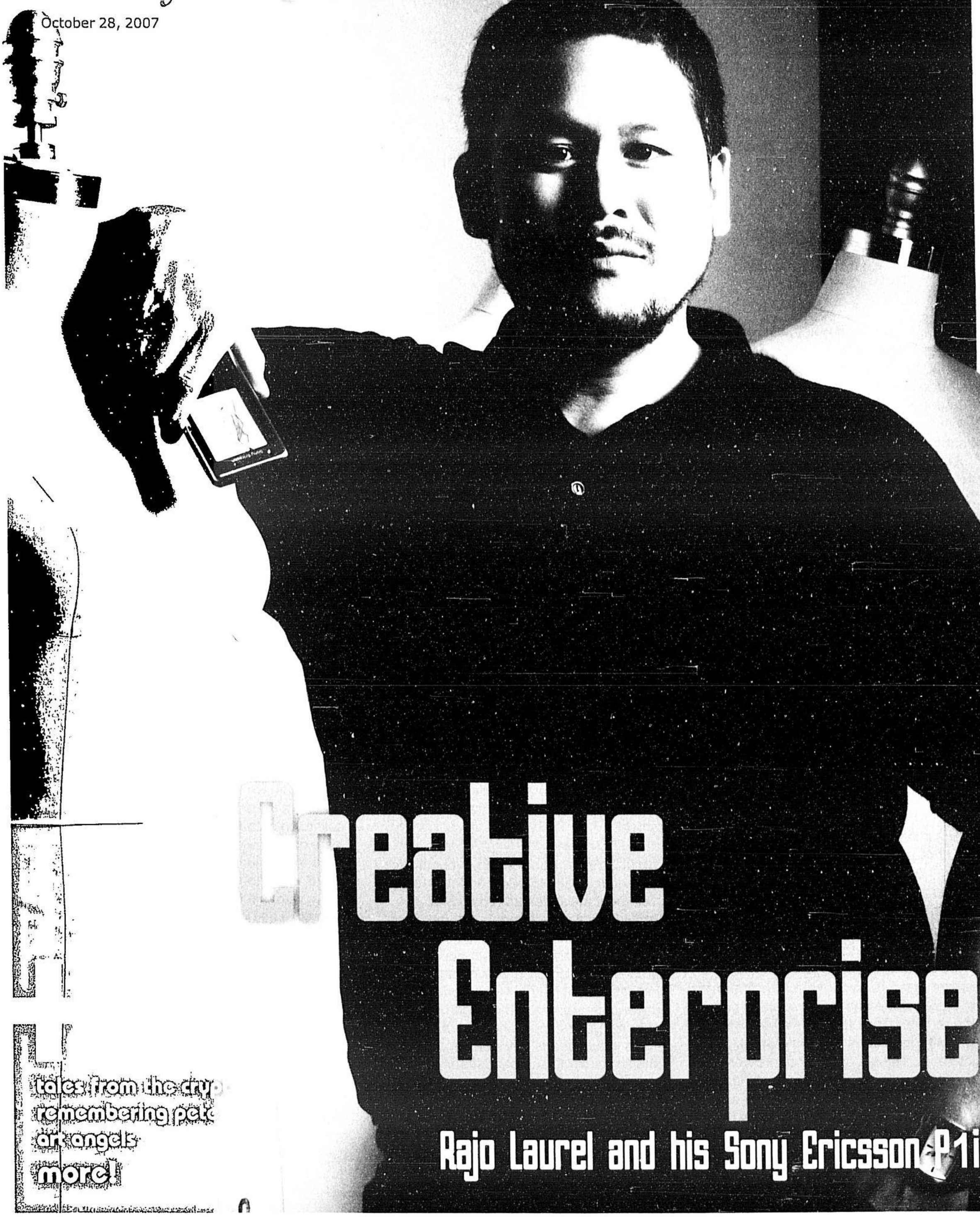

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By Michael L. Tan

Tales from the Dead

You can't take it with you, but our ancestors certainly tried. Clinging to social status to the very end, they were often buried with such prestige objects as gold, imported porcelain, silk cloth and bronze weapons

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Manunggul jar: Journey to the next life

DEAD men do tell tales, as archaeologists and anthropologists would be the first to tell you. Many archaeological sites in the Philippines are actually burial grounds that go back several centuries, with the dead buried either as mummies, in burial jars inside caves, or inside coffins in church yards. The pre-colonial sites are often the most exciting because the dead were often buried with all kinds of goods, giving us glimpses not just of our ancestors' views about death, but also their social life.

Let's look at what tales the dead have for us. Perhaps the most well known pre-colonial type of burial is the use of coffin jars, represented by the one found in Manunggul cave in Palawan with the lid showing people on a boat, presumably to signify the journey to the next life. This jar, which dates back about 2,600 years, is so iconic it is depicted on our 1,000-peso bill.

More intriguing than the Manunggul jar are several pieces from a cave in Maitum, South Cotabato which are produced to look like humans with faces, shoulders, arms and breasts. These are believed to be at least 1,830 years old. Archaeologists speculate that the jars were meant to represent the interred persons.

Jars, found throughout the archipelago, were usually for secondary burials. This meant that a few years after the first burial, relatives of the deceased would exhume the remains and often hold rituals while washing the bones and transferring them into a jar. The secondary burials were occasions when a clan could call back its members for a reunion, to remember the deceased as well as to consolidate ties among the living.

Wakes and burials, primary and secondary, are always occasions for kin to get together. We still emphasize this aspect today and, because Filipinos are now so mobile and scattered throughout the world, waiting for relatives to come home can mean a very prolonged wake.

With the long wakes we now have, I sometimes wonder if we shouldn't revive mummification, which was practiced by the Ibaloi of Benguet. The mummification process itself takes weeks, which gives relatives and close friends adequate time to return home and pay homage. Then, too, if you don't make it to the wake, the mummy will always be there, literally flesh and bones preserved for posterity. Mummification never did become popular in the Philippines, maybe because it was a tedious process. But our ancestors were not remiss when it came to elaborate burials. One burial site in Oton, Iloilo, believed to date between the 14th and 15th centuries, yielded a gold death mask, consisting of an eye mask and a nose shield.

Up in Bolinao, Pangasinan, a burial site also dating back to between the 14th and 15th centuries, yielded remains of individuals with gold-pegged teeth. Since only eight of the 51 buried individuals had these dental ornamentation, we can presume this practice was meant to indicate social status. Not surprisingly, the gravesites also yielded a large assortment of burial goods, including knives, Chinese coins, glass beads, earthenware bracelets, shell ornaments and beads, earrings, bracelets, pendants and even a comb made out of gold.

Archaeologist Grace Barreto-Tesoro wrote an article in Southeast Asian Studies, published in 2003, that analyzed the burial goods found in the Philippines. She noted that the prestige value of these objects probably depended on their being imported or made out of unusual materials. The Manunggul burial site, for example, contained beads and bracelets crafted out of shells, onyx and jade, as well as ear pendants made of jasper and chalcedony. Other prestige goods included bronze weapons, imported ceramics, gongs and drums, and silk cloth.

Even the coffins and jars spoke of status. In the Bolinao grave site, they found an infant interred in a brown-glazed Ming jar imported from China, while in a site in Panhutongan, Surigao del Norte, coffins were made from molave, pahutan, narra, tangile and other hardwoods.

The burial goods tell us the elite had it good, and were quite willing to splurge on luxuries. From the written chronicles of the Spaniards, we know that gold ornaments, which we marvel at today (there is a good collection in the Central Bank Museum), were actually seen as inferior because they were available locally. The burial sites do tell us the elite preferred imported trade ware, with the less affluent trying to imitate the rich. The gravesites show a range in the quality of these trade ware, from very fine porcelain from original kilns in northern China, to rougher versions from southern China, down to crude lookalikes from Indochina and, yes, even local earthenware versions.

You can't take your riches with you into the next life. But our ancestors certainly found it important to take some of their wealth into the grave in a last show of status and prestige. Conspicuous consumption to the very end. •

Treat or Treat!

Leave the scary stuff to the kids and go for the treat—but only if it's sinful, seductive, Sweet Bella

By Margaux Salcedo
Photos courtesy of Sweet Bella

Ball of the Bell Ornaments by Sweet Bella

YAY, it's Halloween again!

This has got to be the best party time of the year, the following day's solemnities eclipsed by the ecstatic spastic festivities of Halloween. Village kids will be roaming the streets again as vampires, witches or superheroes screaming "Trick or Treat!" while party people will be hopping around clubs as Paris Hilton, Britney Spears, Michael Jackson, James Bond. Last year my friends and I went out as the cast of "OK Ka, Fairy Ko," yours truly a proud Ina Magenta. This year I think I'll go as... hmmm, Bella Flores!

But while I'm having my eyebrows dyed into those of Bella Flores, let me tell you about another Bella, one who's not so cruel, and evil in a different way. Her name is Sweet Bella and she is the Bella of the ball for '07!

At the risk of sounding lesbo, let me tell you how we met. She stood across the room, dressed to the nines. She was standing in gorgeous glass slippers, the luminous light from underneath and around accenting the beauty of her face. She was so beautifully coiffed that she managed to upstage the most beautiful lady of all time, Imelda Marcos, who was also in the room that night. Against all willpower, I found myself drawn and making my way to her, holding my breath and doing all I could to contain my excitement. "I'm Sweet Bella," she whispered when I got to where she stood, smiling at me with a calm confidence that melted my heart. I wanted all of her.

But I could only afford three. "Miss, *pabili ng tatlo*." (Three, please.)

This was at the Pink Kitchen, a food festival at the Rockwell Tent organized by the I Can Serve Foundation, and where Cristina Santiago-Rivera, pastry chef, presented a dessert bar that goes by the name Sweet Bella, to showcase her cakes.

Sweet Bella is not a cake shop. You either request Sweet Bella to set up a dessert bar for you or call their hotline for a delivery of individual cakes and truffles.

Let me tell you about this sweetheart called a Dessert Bar. Think hotel dessert bar. Think Circles and Spiral dessert buffet. You know, that section where they usually have that gorgeous chocolate fountain and seductive line up of desserts? That's what Sweet Bella is all about. The glass slippers I was referring to earlier are the glass plates that hold the cakes. And Chef Cristina has perfected the art of presentation such that even the lighting plays a role in the display; the glass stands are lit from underneath. So should you contract Sweet Bella for your wedding or party, you can expect a long dessert table with a sinfully sumptuous spread for your guests. If you have a theme, like Halloween or, say, a White Christmas, the presentation can also be made to match it.

But it is just that—an indulgence. Chef Cristina's 8-inch cakes, which are the only ones available by the piece, are priced at P900 on average, over twice the price of regular cakes. A bar package may run anywhere between P18,000 for around 300 cakelets to P50,000 for almost a thousand cakelets. (A "cakelet" is a small version of a real 8-inch cake, as they offer it in shops like Bizu nowadays. This is usually less than 5 inches in diameter).

Why is it so expensive? I asked. After all, pain in the pocket is not always a masochistic preference, even for the most fanatical foodie. "We really use the best ingredients and we don't scrimp on anything. You will notice that the chocolate and nuts in the cakes are very generous and the ingredients are of top quality. The Belgian chocolates alone are really expensive," explains Chef Cristina. It was an answer I'd heard before so the frugal foodie in me remained skeptical, partly because I have no party to throw in the near future to justify spending that much, but mostly because I would rather just order those individual cakes for myself! (At Pink Kitchen, Sweet Bella offered cakelets that went for about P100 each. And to think we were eating "for charity"!)

Yet all skepticism was lost the following day when I opened my boxes of Chocolatta and Mango Charlotte. In a heartbeat, it was goodbye savings, hello Sweet Bella!

The Chocolatta, a basic chocolate cake, is just gorgeous. Its coating of chocolate is so rich it looks glazed (Sweet Bella describes it as a chocolate glass). You can almost see your reflection on it. Resting on the cake is a giant white chocolate butterfly amidst swirls of dark chocolate. When you dig your knife in for a slice, you notice that the layers of chocolate are just as Chef Cristina described it—generous. The body of the cake, more moist than crumbly ("a good chocolate cake must be moist!" emphasizes Cristina), sandwiches an inch of chocolate ganache that is so luxurious you must take it all in slowly. It's like eating chocolate cake and Lindt dark chocolate truffles at the same time.

(continued on page 5)

By Eric S. Caruncho

Lights, Camera, Angels!

Melbourne-based photographer Emmanuel Santos swears that angels not only make for divine subjects; they're handy as invisible assistants as well

"The Spirit of Djibril" (right); "Sandalphon and Jacob" (below)

WHEN friends from Baguio found out I was going to Melbourne, Australia for an extended sojourn in 1988, they urged me to look up "Mannix."

That was how I met Emmanuel Santos. I later found out that none of his Australian friends knew him by his decidedly Pinoy nickname. Not even his Australian wife Suzanne called him that.

On the surface, the Baguio-bred photographer seemed the typical hardworking Pinoy immigrant. He shared a Melbourne studio with a couple of other photographers. On the side, he sang folk songs at a spaghetti joint. I later learned that his Baguio fame stemmed from a stint doing just that at the old Fireplace.

As an immigrant, Mannix felt a deep affinity for the displaced. His home was a temporary refuge for people on their way to somewhere else. Japanese students, Kiwi would-be fashion models and the odd Pinoy like me were all welcome to share some of Mannix's vegetable curry. His last job before moving to Australia in 1982 was photographing Vietnamese boat people at the Bataan Refugee Zone. He was also deep into his first major photographic project, documenting the lives of the Hasidic Jews in Melbourne.

I had brought him a pasalubong, a *pasiking* (rattan backpack) from Baguio, which reminded him of home, and he cut an odd figure with it on his back as he donned a *yarmulke* (Jewish head covering) to photograph at a synagogue. I found out later on that he was probably the only non-Jew ever allowed inside the synagogue, let alone to take pictures of some of their most sacred rituals.

This project would stretch out over 15 years and span the globe, resulting in a remarkable document consisting of 100 images called "Observances," later published as a book. It would also make Mannix a world-class photographer, exhibiting his works in galleries and museums throughout the world. Ironically, his work is little known in his native country, despite his having received a Presidential Artist Award in 2000. His recent exhibit at the Silverlens Gallery, "The Passing of Light," is the first time most of his countrymen will see his work.

"The Passing of Light" takes his fascination with Judaism to the cosmic level, drawing on the Kabbalah's depiction of the world of angels and interpreting them through the prism of Renaissance painting. The images, to say the least, are arresting. Like most of Santos' work, it is a long-term multinational project, begun in 1997, photographed in several countries, and still ongoing. He hopes to finish it sometime next year and perhaps publish it in book form.

His inspiration for the series, Santos says, came from viewing the works of Michelangelo and Caravaggio. "Since time immemorial the masters had been interpreting the idea of the presence of angels," he explains. "I thought it would be a great challenge if I did something a la Michelangelo photographically and used different locations as my backdrop in creating modern day Renaissance photos depicting the angels of the ancient books. I studied with the masters of Kabbalah in Israel to bring light to the idea of angels and how the concept becomes an integral part of our day-to-day lives. So while on travel, I began to look for places and people that could be appropriate as subjects, and approached them to be photographed—and on most occasions they agreed."

According to the Kabbalah, angels are messengers from heaven to earth, acting as intermediaries in all aspects of our lives. There are angels of grace, healing, justice, love, mercy, the moon, mountains, paradise, peace, praise, stars, trees, truth, and water. There are also angels of confusion, destruction, fear, fire, hail, insomnia, reptiles, storms, terror, and thunder.

Says Santos: "I was fortunate to have projects that had taken me to all the continents of the globe, so that the world became my open studio. I used my trusted Rolleiflex twin lens reflex, shooting with Tri-X, sometimes doing a straight shot with my 'angel' right in the location, and often

sandwiching negatives and combining them in the darkroom when locations and subjects could not be in the same frame. In such cases, I would shoot my angels in my studio or someone else's studio, replicate the light from my intended backdrop and combine them later in the darkroom to achieve a seamless photograph in the final form."

In the course of the project, Santos has come to feel a connection with specific angels as named in the Kabbalah, and believes he might have had a little supernatural help in realizing these images.

"I start with Anael, who is the angel of dawn, the first light. As a photographer I have always believed that this magic light is sometimes given, so I always call on Anael when I am shooting, to bring me the best and most appropriate light. Hutriel is next because he represents conscience and consequence and punishment. Must be from my Catholic upbringing. Zarobi is also one who controls the light in the darkness. That shot was in Buenos Aires and I thought that as a photographer who begins with darkness, I could only be under the mercy and spell of Zarobi who brings in the light that I need to illuminate my images. Chrysostom, I would say, is my uplifting angel, and I love that image of the ascending angel, which was shot in the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, where Christians believe Jesus was buried. It was a kind of 'Hallelujah' moment with the light shaft from the dome coming down to reveal the dark tomb of Jesus Christ—everything converging to complete a shot, and all I had to do was capture it."

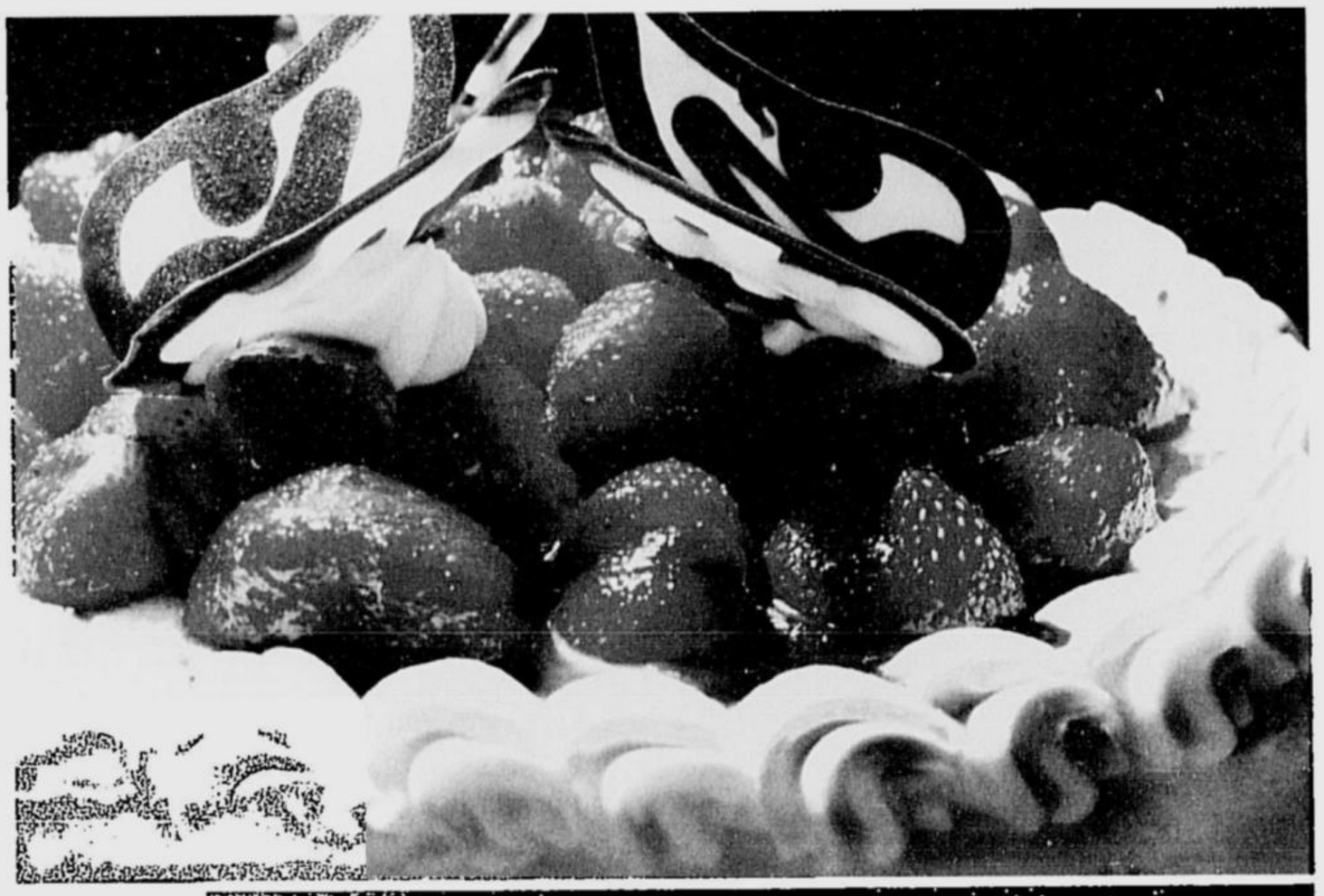
He continues: "I could go on and on... I love them all and each one gives me an energy and engages me in some kind of contemplation. Whenever I shoot, I always tell my assistants or colleagues that I hope the shooting angel will keep me company today, or the printing angel will be in the darkroom in those late night hours when there is only you and the alchemy with the silver papers. And during the day, when someone you meet gives you some bit of wisdom or news or whatever, that makes you smile and feel good, don't you sometimes say 'Oh thanks, you're an angel!' So I believe everyone can be touched or connected as long as you believe in it." •

Treat or Treat! (from page 3)

Chocolate lover that I am, however, I was even more amazed at the Mango Charlotte. Charlotte is just pretty. She has white icing all over and daintily designed mango slices on top. Charlotte's Web crossed my head when I saw the spiral of mangoes, but Chef Cristina says there is no significant story to the name, only that the cake uses a family recipe that she recalls her mom, Purita Santiago, using since Cristina was only five. (Her father, by the way, is Melo Santiago of Melo's. Cristina was Melo's pastry chef before she created Sweet Bella.)

The cake was so pretty I couldn't bring myself to slice it. But I finally found the courage and served myself and my mother, my ever reliable eating companion. Let me tell you in all honesty and with no exaggeration whatsoever that after our first bite, we just stopped talking. We were possessed by the cake! My mom was adorable to watch. She took a bite, then her face went blank, like she stopped breathing, then when she came to she exhaled a very ladylike "mmmm!" almost like she just discovered... Jimmy Choo shoes.

Here's a taste of Charlotte, which also comes in Strawberry. Your tongue is greeted by the Chantilly cream, a vanilla-flavored whipped cream which, true to habit, is lathered on generously. When you bite into it, your teeth will sink into the gentle crunchiness of a cashew-flavored crust. Then when you chew, your tongue will party with the pristine sweetness of the cream and the more earthy sweetness of the mango. While your tongue savors this play on taste, made even more interesting by the lingering cashew flavor, the experience is taken to another level with the play on texture, the delicate crunch juxtaposed against the silky whipped cream and the cool slide of mango. If you eat it like a child, from the outside, you might find it too sweet and rich because the cake wears this cream like sheep wear fleece. But if you stay within the boundaries of cake central, where crunch remains abundant, sweet hits the precise note, muted by the cashew flavoring, and well within the realm of "just perfect."



Web of delight: Strawberry Charlotte

"It's a lot of hard work," Chef Cristina says when asked how it's done. "It's really just the basics, but we work on presentation and in making sure that the cakes come out exactly as we want them to taste." She gets inspiration from travel and books and is not in a rush to go commercial, emphasizing the amount of work they put into each cake. The idea of a Sweet Bella store is in mind but far from being in the works just now.

So in the meantime, we'll have to call to order. But I must say as a last note that this Mango Charlotte is simply something you must try while you can still scream "Trick or Treat!" Heaven may be everything it promises to be, but I do believe even the most pious angel would fall for this seductive Sweet Bella!

Sweet Bella. 1730 Banyan Street, Dasmariñas Village, Makati. Tel. 844-0680 or 844-9905, Mobile no. 0928-502-5027.

Corpses Come with the Job

The ability to view dead bodies dispassionately is routine among men in uniform. But that doesn't make it easier

By Mio de la Cruz

Violent death: An everyday experience

Joan Bondoc

"GROWN men don't cry."

In a military and police setting, this rule continues to be observed. In fact, any acknowledgement of emotion is considered a sign of weakness and must not be condoned. Even when confronted with death, military and police officers are expected to hold their ground and remain unaffected, and to treat the bloody encounter as just another day in their life as law enforcers.

The stony demeanor has been challenged, however, with no less than Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, former commander of the Coalition Forces in the Gulf War of 1991, admitting in a televised interview that he had wept in his command tent during Operation Desert Storm because of homesickness. The general even showed the teddy bear sent by his family, which he had kept on his cot for comfort.

On the local front, former Marine Commander, now Sen. Rodolfo Biazon also confessed to shedding a tear over the involvement of his former men in a coup attempt, which he had helped quell, against then President Corazon Aquino in 1986.

Psychiatrists too have weighed in with their views, suggesting that there will always be a particular moment when the awful montage of sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and touch could assault a soft spot in an officer's heart.

Those moments are few and far between, contends Maj. Lino Banaag, chief of the Homicide Division of the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit at Camp Karingal, Quezon City. "We have been taught and trained to expect (encounters with dead bodies) as early as when we were students at the Philippine College of Criminology," he says. "We now consider it just a part of our job."

As homicide investigators, it is routine for members of the division to inspect dead bodies to determine the cause of death, the weapon used, number of wounds and other tell-tale signs of foul play to determine criminal liability and pin down likely suspects, explains SP03 Rafael de Peralta. "The information has to be accurate, so we have to study the cadaver closely," he adds.

Both young and older officers are vulnerable to the emotional and sensory aspects of handling dead bodies. Young police officers are generally traumatized by the experience until their coping mechanisms come into play, perhaps after six or seven encounters. "In two weeks' time, the sight of dead bodies no longer bothered me," recounts De Peralta, who was assigned as homicide investigator for seven years.

Agrees Major Banaag, who has been in the service for close to 30 years: "I don't mind seeing corpses, but I still get teary-eyed every time I hear 'Taps' being played for a fallen fellow police officer." He adds: "And I wish I don't ever have to listen to it again."

The Major reveals that not all police officers are cut out for the job of a homicide investigator. Some of these officers may struggle with issues of depression, suicide, anger, aggression, separation, relationship, or childhood abuse, whether physical or sexual.

"We have other positions for those who can't handle the sight of death or blood," says Banaag, who recalls once having to push a neophyte investigator towards a dead body. "Sometimes, it's just a matter of confronting your fear face-to-face."

Mio de la Cruz

Banaag: "I don't mind."

During their years on the beat, Banaag and De Peralta have developed coping strategies and responses that allow them to shrug off all but the most vivid of death scenes and dead body experiences. "I make it a point to make a distinct demarcation line between my job as a police officer and my role as a family man," says Major Banaag. "When I go home, I totally leave my police work behind and settle down as husband to my wife and father to my children."

Both believe in ghosts and in life after death, but profess not to have seen one in the course of their duty as police officers. "I sometimes see images of my grandparents who took care of me when I was still a child," confides De Peralta. "But I have yet to see the ghost of a criminal or a crime victim."

Major Banaag has an explanation: "The criminals we track down and those whom we are forced to kill in self-defense know

(continued on page 7)

Text and photograph by Ivan Man Dy

Confessions of a Cemetery Junkie

Four more reasons to visit Manila's historic burial grounds even when it's not All Souls Day

CALL it a perverse attraction but cemeteries (especially old ones) provide an irresistibly fascinating way to understand one's roots and history. Every self-respecting city worth its salt has a famous cemetery. Think Paris and Pere-Lachaise, La Recoleta in Buenos Aires, the Jewish Cemetery in Prague, and in Manila, the Paco, the Chinese and the American cemeteries. And here's why.

1. If it's peace you're looking for, there's nothing like a stroll down these burial grounds' well-paved, squatter-free, immaculately maintained streets. In a city that devours every open green space, these places are just as sacred to us living mortals as they are to the departed, giving us brief pause to contemplate our life (and death). Besides, how many cities in the world can claim to have colonial Spanish, American and Chinese cemeteries "co-existing" with each other?

2. Of late, it's not just restless military souls fluttering around the American Memorial Cemetery in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. These days, you're likely to bump into leggings-clad, binocular-toting groupies quietly making their way through the marble headstones. No, they're not the Ghostbusters, just members of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, and they're most likely out to catch a glimpse of a Japanese sparrow hawk or maybe the Airbus A380. Ah, the call of the wild!

Manila's Chinese Cemetery

3. There's life (and freebies) at the Cemetery. Come All Saints' Day when hordes of families descend upon the Chinese Cemetery, expect concessionaire booths to offer free product giveaways. If you're Tsinoy, you can also get an update on your extended family's current happenings, life stories and scandals.

4. Death and Deco. If you're a serious fan of historic architecture, you can never go wrong exploring the nooks and crannies of the Chinese Cemetery. Founded in 1878, practically every architectural style which has touched our country's shores is represented within this 54-hectare compound. The Chinese (along with the shabbier North and La Loma Catholic Cemeteries nearby) are three of the very few places that have survived the last great war in 1945 pretty much unscathed and have retained a sizable number of Manila's architectural heritage. Fancy a Neo-Gothic chapel? How about a Chinese-Mexican temple? Or a three-story mausoleum? From the folksy to the flamboyant, the Buddhist to Catholic, all the world's architecture can be found inside the Chinese Cemetery. And here's a little secret: if you're an Art-Deco style groupie like myself, you can check out the superb mausoleum examples! Not to worry, security guards abound and there's even a convenient *sari-sari* store nearby.

Now, that's life after death. •

The author conducts regular cultural tours around the city including his "morbid favorite"—Mounds, Magnates and Mausoleums: A Chinese Cemetery Walk. For details, visit Old Manila Walks (www.oldmanilawalks.com).

Corpses Come with the Job (from page 6)

they did something wrong to society and that they have to atone for it. They have to answer for their sins, not just to their victims, but to God. We run after the culprits, not the victims who may remain earth-bound in their quest for justice. As a devout Catholic, I always wish these criminals forgiveness from God and hope that they rest in peace."

Banaag lightens up when asked how he feels when a criminal is killed in an encounter. "*Masaya ako*! (I'm glad)" he says matter-of-factly. "If he had not been killed, then it would have been one of us. And I don't want that to happen." He adds, "But what I dread most is to see an innocent bystander getting killed in the crossfire."

Despite their resolve not to allow their encounters with death to affect them, both men say that their job makes them realize their vulnerability. "It makes me more prayerful and more tolerant of the reality of death," Banaag muses. "If I die a sudden death, I imagine there are people who would be saddened by it as there are others—criminals and their relatives and friends—who would be happy," he adds.

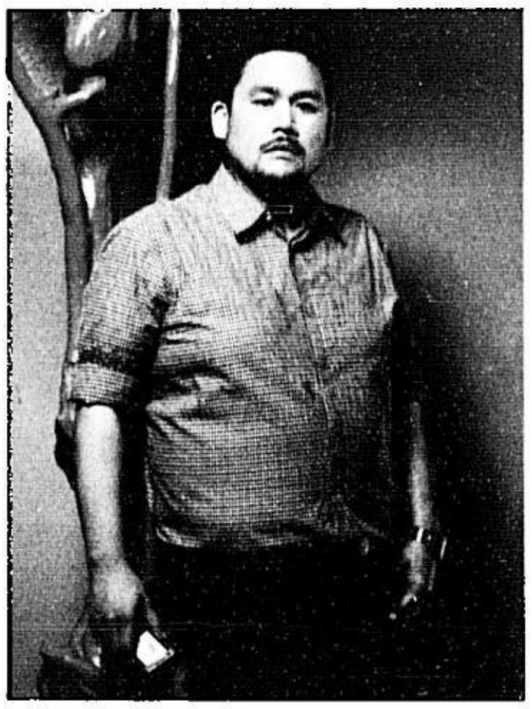
The stories of Banaag and de Peralta may be exceptional since they have a strong coping mechanism. Others are not so lucky, and have found solace in other ways as they strive to savor the best moments in life, knowing how uncertain it is. Those who have sent their families abroad for security reasons may also find that they've lost the crucial family bond they need to cope with their routine encounters with death. A police officer, who refused to be identified, confesses to engaging in extramarital affairs because of lack of family support.

Unfortunately, nurturing family ties isn't a strong part of the job. Police officers are expected to be on call even on special holidays, including Christmas Day, All Souls Day and Valentine's Day, which, for many Filipinos, are occasions for getting together. For men in uniform, these "red alert" days are even worse than facing their daily quota of dead bodies. It's easily what makes their job stink. •

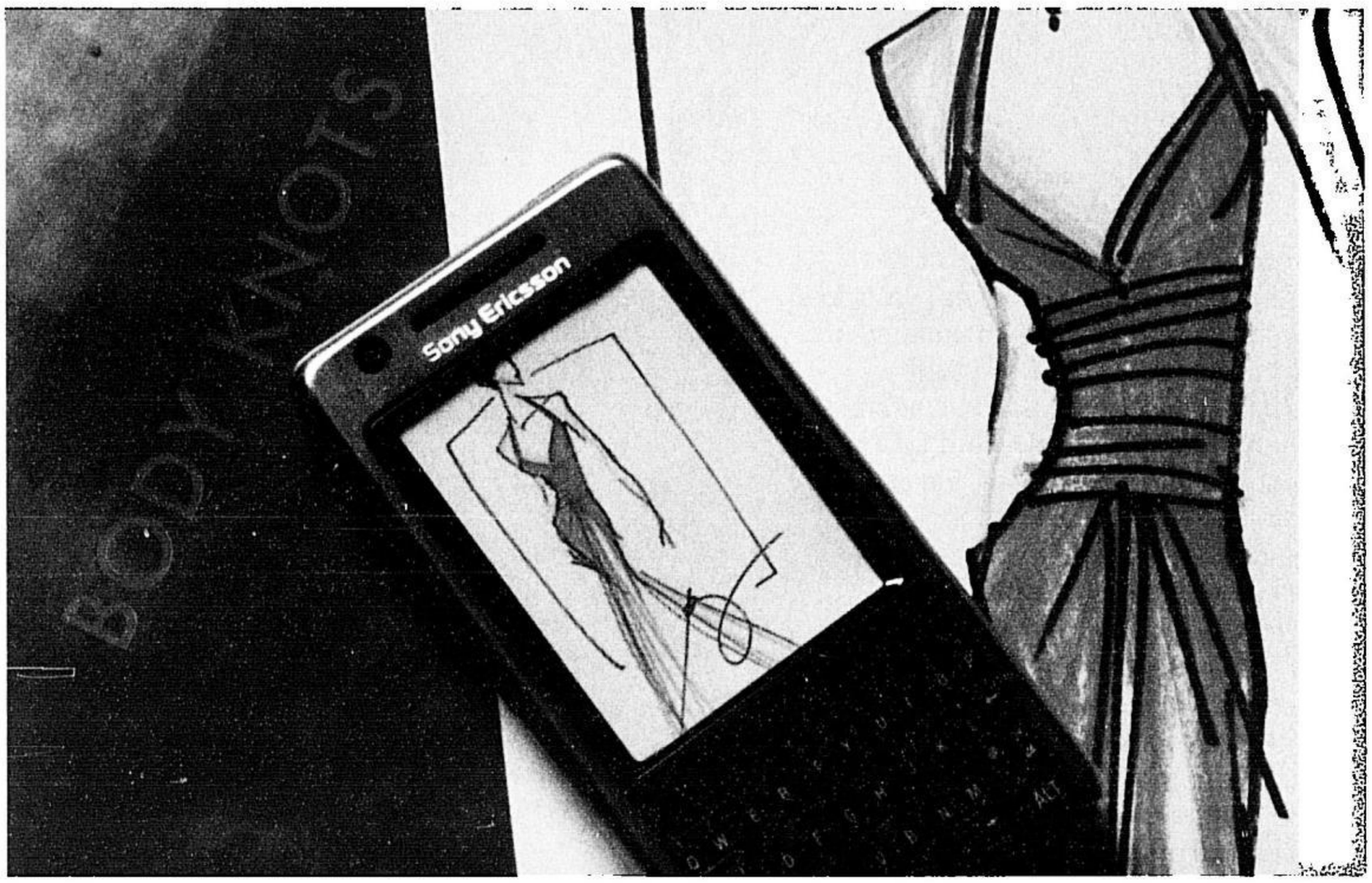
Photographs by Jun de Leon

The Business of Creativity

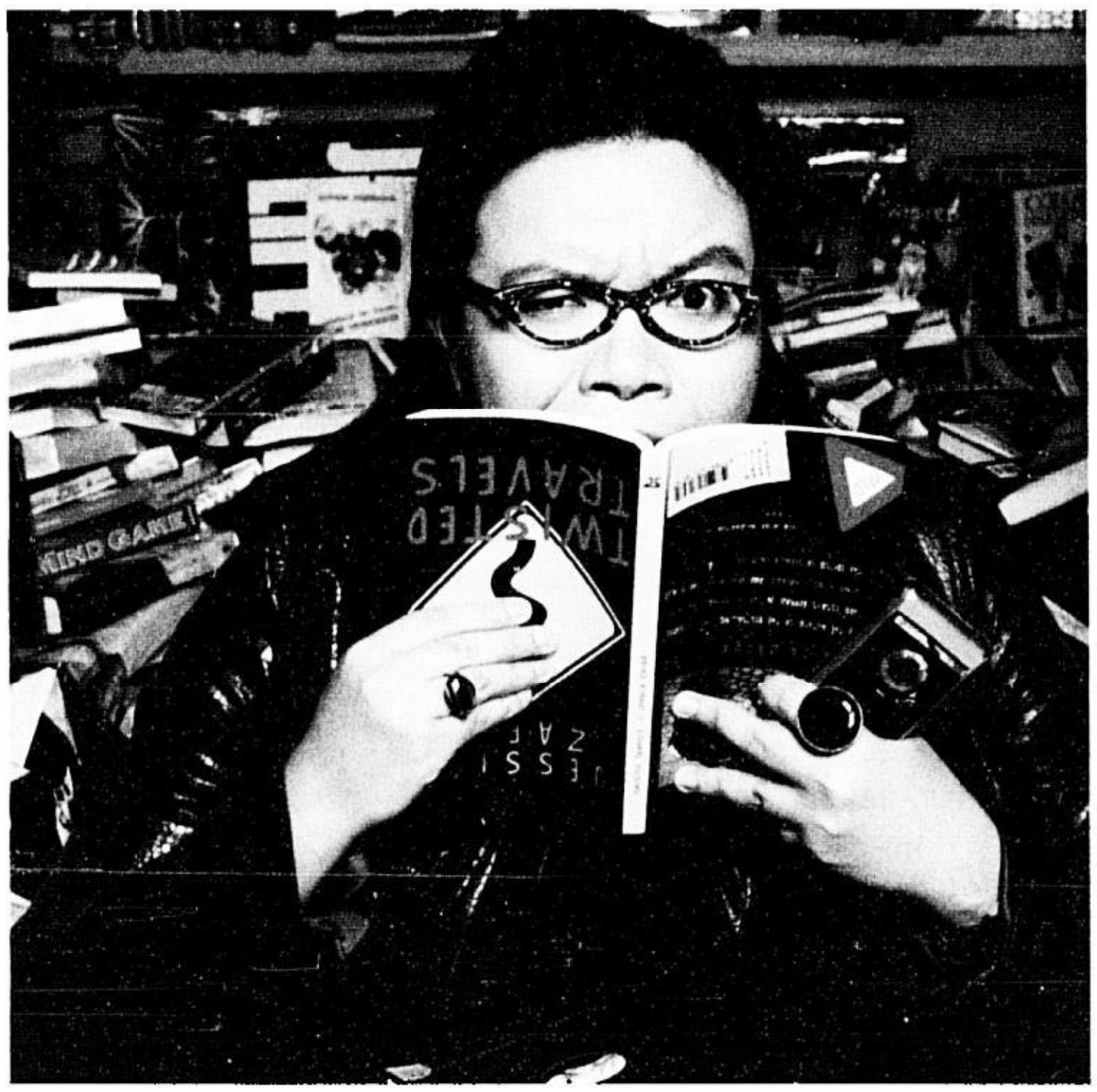
How do creative professionals harness their innovative ideas into paying propositions? For a start, they use Sony Ericsson's latest PDA phone—the P1i—because it transforms into exactly what they need when inspiration strikes



Laurel: "With Sony Ericsson P1i, I can draw, write little notes to myself and take photos of things that inspire me."



Zafra: "The P1i is very useful and helps me update my blog Jessicarulesthe universe.com"



CREATIVITY is so hard to pin down that scores of books, lectures, hands-on techniques and other tips hardly suffice to describe what it can accomplish. Thinking out of that quintessential box has driven creative individuals into fresh and innovative ventures that have turned them into successful entrepreneurs. And this is where the problem lies. Creative thinking is one thing; channeling that into a lucrative business is another.

This is a challenge that Sony Ericsson recognizes and the reason why the mobile maker designed a PDA phone that caters to the demanding needs of today's creative professionals. For these individuals whose work involves both the creative and business sides of enterprise, Sony Ericsson's latest PDA phone—the P1i—is the hands down phone of choice. The Sony Ericsson P1i equips them with the freedom to create by being exactly what they need when inspiration strikes--a notebook, a sketchpad, a camera, an organizer, an e-mail device and a means to do business wherever they are.

Possessed of both creative soul and business savvy is the best way to describe Rajo Laurel, who has over 400 employees working for his exclusive boutique, the House of Laurel. Known for his ready-to-wear line as well as the uniforms he designs and manufactures for companies abroad, Rajo has gained esteem as a formidable player in the fashion industry. But he isn't about to rest on his laurels. "There really wasn't a defining moment that made me decide to become a fashion designer. There was no other thing that I could imagine myself doing."

What started as a penchant for fashion at the ripe old age of 11 has now grown into an empire that wields such an influence that it has transformed the routine of dressing-up into an art form that has earned a loyal following, media attention and enormous returns along the way. Rajo's trademark clothes that "would make a person fall in love with another" and his luxurious and romantic designs have reeled in the patronage of two Philippine presidents, the chic social set, supermodels, as well as notable movie and TV stars.

Colayco: "I like how this phone has a great organizer that lets me sort out my appointments."

Ben Colayco, on the other hand, heads Level Up! the company that launched Ragnarok, the phenomenally successful online game that took the Philippines by storm.

What all four personalities have in common is the ability to be open to new ideas and to recognize their creative potential. As Ben puts it, "A lot of people think that creativity is this amorphous whimsical thing that only eccentric people are lucky enough to capture. But people actually 'practice' creativity by making sure that they are always exposed to new things."

Cleverly harnessing their creative and business skills with the help of the multi-faceted Sony Ericsson P1i, these individuals have made a success out of a process that nobody has quite figured out yet. These are personalities who, at one time or another, made us all despairingly wonder: "Now why didn't I think of that?" ▪

It's a notebook, a sketch pad, a camera, an organizer, an e-mail device and a business tool

"I always look to journeys to provide me with inspiration. I get excited about journeying to a place I've never been to through books, movies or interaction with people I have just met," says Rajo, who understands the capricious nature of fashion. Trends may come and go, but like the ubiquitous LBD (that's Little Black Dress for the uninitiated), this noted designer believes that creativity never goes out of style.

Like Rajo, the creativity of writer Jessica Zafra, director Quark Henares and Level Up! boss Ben Colayco, knows no limits.

Jessica, the purveyor of the famous, if cheeky plan, for world domination, has gained a larger platform through her blog Jessicarulestheuniverse.com. She's now involved with Mad Crowd Media, a group that's organizing the best Filipino blogs to enable them to approach advertisers as a single network and help bloggers get compensation for something they already do.

Everybody knows who Quark Henares is and what he does. What most people probably don't know is that the talented filmmaker is also an entrepreneur who channels his creativity into two productive ventures close to his heart—music, via the hip Mag:net Café, and kids, through the Blow Up Babies photography studio.

Henares: "The notepad is great. I can just jot down my ideas about dialogues or situations."

IN MEMORIAM

Pete Roa's Beautiful Death

'An ethereal presence hovered, assuring us that he had blissfully joined hands with his Maker'

By Boots Anson Roa

Bliss: Pete and Boots' silver wedding celebration in 1989 with Boots's parents

HOW can death ever be beautiful?

How can one find rhyme or reason in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU)? Or color amidst the steel braces supporting antiseptic machines that perform only with buttons and switches, but never with a heart for the suffering patient at their mercy?

Where is the poetry in those cryptic machine-generated alphanumeric reports that disclose how vital signs—blood pressure, heartbeat, pulse rate and oxygen count—have begun to falter? How find rhythm in the incessant drops of IV fluids that swell the hand to a black and blue palette?

Where is the melody in the beeping, buzzing sounds that guiltlessly announce the end of another life?

Switch frame to the same Capitol Medical Center ICU setting, afternoon of August 9. Pete Roa, 67, an institution in Philippine broadcasting, is about to meet his Maker. His 10-year stroke, paralysis and partial blindness due to glaucoma and diabetes, have been exacerbated by emphysema and gastric cancer which has metastasized to his brain and lungs. He is in the final throes of his bout with pneumonia and multiple organ failure.

Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, and his friends Fathers Sonny Ramirez, Jerry Orbos, Larry Faraon, Aris Sison and hospital chaplain Father Mel, have taken turns administering the last rites to him the day before. Visits from his doctors—Drs. Bong Aquino, Gabby de Leon, Joselito Atabug, Franz Arcellana, Boots Francisco, Miriam Calaguas and Rima Tan— have become more frequent and urgent.

Days ago, when Pete was more coherent, he would still banter with me, our children Joey and Chiqui, and her husband, Antipolo Congressman Robbie Puno. He would take calls from our Virginia-based children, Leah and husband Russell Cuevas, and Ben and wife Michelle Frondoso. Despite increasing incoherence, he would wax nostalgic with siblings Tito, Nita, Patty, Dado, Eddie and wife Alma, and Angelina and husband Des Montemayor. Nen, eldest brother Cocoy's widow, drew him out of memory lapses by recalling Saturday *mahjong* sessions, which he authoritatively declared was preventive therapy for Alzheimer's Disease. Rather expectedly, his hallucinations spawned by medication and anesthetics were marked, not by restless lament, but by the game's winning moves like *pong, kang* and *bisaklat.*

Pete's irrepressible humor sustained him through the last few months and days. To the end, he described our 43-year marriage as "bliss" for me and "blisters" for him. Once I repeatedly asked him my name to test if I was still "connecting," and he repeatedly answered "Boots." In a game of multiple choice, I asked him again to choose from among Boots, Ai-ai or Pokwang, and he responded, "All of the above." I stopped asking after that.

Still in multiple choice mode, I would ask, "What do you feel in your head and on your chest: a house, a building or an elephant?" "A hippopotamus from Australia" was his testy answer. Once I saw him counting, so I thought of helping process his thoughts and even waxing philosophical. I asked, "Are you counting sheep, your blessings or my laugh lines?" He retorted, "What's wrong with counting fingers?"

About two weeks before Pete's demise, my son-in-law Robbie informed him that the family would set up a memorial fund for his advocacies, which we had known to be broadcast education, stroke rehabilitation and propagation of devotion to St. Padre Pio that he shared. Pete was never one to regularly visit shrines, pray novenas at dawn or kiss holy images; but he did all these for Padre Pio.

As an introduction to the fund, Robbie asked him, "What would you like us to get for Mom that you may not have been able to give her in your lifetime?" "Another me," was Pete's one-liner. We told him there was no "other him;" and besides, the fund would not suffice. Came his punch line: "I have no tag price."

In earlier years, whenever Pete and I would talk about the inevitable, he would already predict his "earlier appointment with God." He said he preferred to "go ahead" and be my "advance party" since he would be clueless about funeral arrangements that he said would be better left in my hands.

Shortly before he passed on, however, this man of too few words uncharacteristically specified the details of his own "conduct to Eternity." He wanted his Carmel scapular under his favorite *barong* as he lay in state in a brown wooden casket, preferably rented since he was going to be cremated

(continued on page 12)

By Tony M. Maghirang

The Dawn and Twilight of Teddy Diaz

The tragic death of their guitar wielder was the darkest hour for The Dawn. Almost 20 years later, Diaz remains a palpable presence in the band

Before the night: Original members (L to R) Jett Pangan, Carlos Balcells, Teddy Diaz and J.B. Leonor

TIME may dull the pain of losing a friend; but it doesn't help ease the struggle to understand a senseless death.

Almost two decades since the day they met up at a hospital morgue to identify the body of their lead guitarist, Teddy Diaz, the members of the rising rock band The Dawn and Diaz's closest friends still haven't found answers to the questions that tormented them that day in August. How could it be that one moment Diaz was full of life and energy, looking to launch another surefire hit song, and the next he was lying cold and lifeless, his body riddled with stab wounds?

Jett Pangan recalls the day with stark clarity. It was August 21, 1988, just after midnight. They had wrapped up a live peformance on "Martin After Dark" with their latest radio-ready anthem, "Love (Will Set Us Free)." The TV show's musical director, Louie Ocampo, had complimented the band for their tight performance and the normally reserved Teddy appeared unusually happy and sociable.

The band members left the ABS CBN compound after, and went their separate ways. Jett had proceeded to a friend's house where he planned to spend the rest of the night cramming for an exam. Three hours later, the call came. Teddy was dead. Murdered.

Jett can still see in his mind's eye the stab wounds. "The wounds on his left forearm showed that he had tried to parry the stabs. It was the thrust to his throat that killed him," he recounts. "A witness said he tried to crawl towards his girlfriend's house, but he expired in the attempt due to massive bleeding."

According to accounts, Teddy proceeded to his girlfriend's house in Tatalon, Quezon City, after the gig on Channel 2. He was walking towards the gate when he was accosted by two drunks, one of them armed with a knife. Teddy offered his wallet, containing P200, his share of the fee from the band's earlier performance, but after snatching the wallet, the knife-wielder went on to stab him, even as his companion reportedly tried to pacify him.

Drummer J. B. Leonor recalls sketchy police reports that said the assailant had killed an aunt that same afternoon and was in the area to hide from the authorities. He engaged the local toughies in a friendly drinking bout, and when the alcohol ran out, he sought out a partner to help him rob the first person they encountered that early morning.

Leonor rues, "With his long hair, Teddy might have been mistaken for a woman, an easy prey. Teddy might have resisted at some point, and that's why they stabbed him. He was really a victim of circumstance. He just happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time."

Police caught the thrill killer a week after the incident. The local hoods gave him up, refusing to coddle a murderer in their neighborhood. The case was tried in court and the convicted killer spent time at the New Bilibid Prison. There were subsequent rumors that he got shot in the knees while trying to escape from prison, but band members say last they heard, Teddy's assailant had died in jail.

Former Eraserheads and current Dawn bassist Buddy Zabala describes Teddy's passing as "a great loss." The Dawn led the way, he recalls, and after the band made a success out of creating homegrown music, " other local bands started writing their own material. But it was Teddy who was the prime mover of The Dawn."

Leonor concurs that Diaz was the central force behind The Dawn. Jett adds, "Teddy practically put the band together. He was also a catalyst. He forced us to contribute to songwriting and made us realize that we could write songs. We became songwriters because of him."

The band members struggled with the loss, not only of an important member of the group but of a friend. But knowing what Teddy would have wanted, they pushed through with a previously booked concert at the Folk Arts Theater. Three guitarists, David Lava of Rage, Resty of Identity Crisis, and Afterimage's Francis Reyes, replicated parts designed for Teddy to play at the show. The Dawn concert turned into a tribute to their slain guitarist.

No, Teddy has not made his presence felt to any of the band members since then, they say. And yes, they have come to accept that Teddy was a victim of a robbery gone real bad, but whatever the trauma he may have experienced in death, they are certain he has now found peace. He has moved on, and so must they.

(continued on page 13)

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	5	8	9				6	
3				8				4
2					5			
1						2		
	9						5	
		6						7
			2					9
5				7				8
	4				1	7	3	

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 10-28

Answers in PDI, Oct. 29 issue

Answer to previous puzzle

PDI, Oct. 27

5	6	4	9	3	7	2	1	8
1	2	8	5	4	6	7	9	3
9	3	7	2	1	8	6	5	4
2	4	5	6	7	9	3	8	1
8	7	1	3	2	5	4	6	9
3	9	6	4	8	1	5	2	7
7	5	2	8	9	3	1	4	6
4	8	3	1	6	2	9	7	5
6	1	9	7	5	4	8	3	2

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Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10-27

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Pete Roa's Beautiful Death (from page 10)

Command performance: Pete's interment

anyway. No more cumbersome steel leg braces; ten years' discomfort was enough. The wake would be four to five days, enlivened by live music, laughter and joy as he was headed anyway for eternal bliss. We asked if he wanted necrological rites with the "*de rigueur*" tributes. As vehemently as a sick man could, he shook his head. But, oh yes, his last night could be climaxed by a "farewell concert" to herald his entry to heaven. He could still name, albeit with much difficulty, those he wanted to be sent "call slips" for his "command performance"—from stage manager to musical director to singers to host. Ah, the producer and director still plying his trade, practicing his craft, doing what he did best, even at his own curtain call!

Starting August 7, I smuggled my way into the ICU outside of visiting hours. I wanted to be at Pete's side whenever his curtain would fall and his lights would dim. I thought that the 10 years of his stroke had brought us closer to God and to each other, strengthening every fiber of our togetherness. I know now that his last three days made us inseparable from the Lord and from each other, with time for expressed love and forgiveness.

Pete's final days were marked by muted pain and suffering, heightening to levels that science and technology could not yet address. It was God's abiding presence, felt in prayer, reflection and quiet surrender that blessed Pete with the healing that we, his loved ones, had asked for.

Pete's last expressed wish was a "quick and timely demise." We added that it had to be according to God's will and His "time and motion" schedule, not ours. We asked for no miracle. Only that Pete's faith be nurtured and that his sufferings comprise purification and be lifted up. Even better, sublimated.

We, his loved ones, stood tearfully, silently suspended in time, surrounding Pete in prayer and our own act of surrender to God's might. At 4:15 p.m., Pete went ahead and preempted his respirator, which continued to run as medical personnel declared him dead.

In his lifelessness, Pete found God's timelessness. His face glowed with serenity and peace. An ethereal presence hovered, assuring us that Pete had blissfully joined hands with his Maker.

That was the grace of Pete's rite of passage, the blessing of his final moment. It showed us that, yes, there can be rhyme and reason in the ICU, color and warmth in steel hospital devices, poetry in medical charts, and music in the beeping machines that announce the beginning of life in another realm. Yes, indeed, death can be beautiful.

The family has established PRIME (Pete Roa Integrated Media Endeavors) Foundation, with Board Members, Atty. Raffy Evangelista, Jose Mari Chan, Dr. Bong Aquino, Fred de la Rosa, Bibsy Carballo, Marichu Maceda, Ed Roa and Nestor Torre. Its initial projects include a play on Padre Pio's inspiring life, a lecture series on broadcast education through the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas, and an adjunct program for stroke patients of the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation. The play on Padre Pio will be staged starting Jan. 16, 2008, Pete's birthday. For inquiries, call Josephine de Veyra at tel. nos. 9299571 and (925) 4159224.

The Dawn and Twilight of Teddy Diaz (from page 11)

After sunrise: The Dawn today (L to R) Pangan, Leonor, Francis Reyes and Buddy Zabala

When the three surviving members and then-manager Martin Galan met after Teddy's death, their first decision was to continue with the band. They also agreed that Teddy's replacement would not have to be his clone. A succession of guitarists came and went until they asked Francis Reyes to try filling in Teddy's legacy-laden shoes. It took time for Francis to fit in, not due to limited chops but because of demands from fans all over. They still chanted and cheered "Teddy, Teddy!" in most shows here and abroad and that was a scary, eerie challenge for any presumed pretender to an iconic performer's throne.

Francis admits, "People continue to remember Teddy. He had star quality written all over him that registered very well even with those who didn't know him as a musician. He had a very strong personality that you just can't ignore!"

In songs that Teddy had composed with The Dawn, Francis improvises on the guitar solos and generally retains the original melody and feel of the songs as a tribute to Teddy's genius. But he is also aware that his current style may echo traces of Teddy's influence precisely because he has to imitate the late musician's playing style.

To celebrate its 20th year in show business, The Dawn released last year "*Tulad Ng Dati*," a compilation of their memorable hits. It carries the weight of Teddy's legacy even as old anthems, "Enveloped Ideas," "I Stand With You," and "Love (Will Set Us Free)," are revitalized with fresh beats and rock licks. The carrier single, "*Ang Iyong Paalam*," may also be taken as a sideways remembrance of the band's original guitarist.

Last year, the band took time out to star in an independent film, "*Tulad Ng Dati*," which captured major honors at Cine Malaya 2006. As Teddy Diaz, actor Ping Medina played the pivotal role close to the bone. The uncanny resemblance between Teddy and the actor brought tears to the eyes of Teddy's mom. The band and the Diaz family also had a simple reunion of sorts after the movie's premiere. The last time they saw each other was during Teddy's burial.

Almost a decade since Teddy Diaz' death, at about the same time they were last with him, The Dawn hit the stage as headliner in a concert for slain UP fratman Cris Mendez, the most recent victim of another senseless violence—this time, an alleged fraternity hazing.

It was a sparsely attended show, but the four-man band played a tight and inspired set. Wherever he may be, Teddy must surely be proud of the rocking mates he had left behind. •

Famous Last Words

Exit lines that breathe new life to unforgettable characters in history

"Why not? After all, it belongs to him."
—Comic actor **Charlie Chaplin** to priest intoning the Last Rites with these words: "And may the Lord have mercy on your soul!"

"My God. What's happened?"
—**Diana**'s last words as recorded in official police files. The Princess of Wales died in a car crash in a Paris tunnel in 1997 with escort Dodi Al Fayed

"I know you have come to kill me. Shoot, coward. You are only going to kill a man."
—Argentinian revolutionary **Che Guevara** to Bolivian firing squad who had arrested him.

Princess Diana

"Turn me. I am roasted on one side."
—**Saint Lawrence**, one of the most celebrated Roman martyrs, who was slowly burned to death during the time of Emperor Valerian.

"This is no time to make new enemies."
—French philosopher **Voltaire** when asked on his deathbed to forswear Satan.

"Either that wallpaper goes, or I go!"
—Writer **Oscar Wilde** eyeing the offensive wallpaper on his deathbed in 1900 •

Six Feet Under

Cast in stone, their words outlive them

"That's All, Folks!"
—Epitaph on the grave of voice actor **Mel Blanc** who was known as the voice of cartoon characters Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Barney Rubble and many more. "That's all folks" is, of course, Porky Pig's sign-off for Warner Brothers cartoons.

"I am ready to meet my Maker.
Whether my Maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter."
—Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

"The best is yet to come"
—Francis Albert Sinatra

"Against you I will fling myself,
Unvanquished and unyielding, o death!"
—Virginia Woolf

By Monette Quiogue

My Very Own Tales From the Crypt

Coming from a family that started the Quiogue funeral homes had its perks. One time my Dad held a Halloween party and set up a coffin in the middle of the room. People took turns lying inside and having their picture taken

Original site: Funeraria Nacional along Rizal Avenue

"ARE you related to the funeral parlor?"

Hearing it all through my life, I've gotten used to it—the question that comes after I mention my name. Complete strangers come up to ask me like they know or have met one of my relatives, that's how familiar Quiogue sounds.

Yes, I am related "to the funeral parlor." Until very recently, my family owned Funeraria Nacional, which has been around for about a hundred years. Brand loyalty seems to have made "Quiogue" synonymous with *funeraria* for generations now.

The whole thing began with my great-great-grandfather, Feliciano Quiogue. Said to have been the first Filipino undertaker, he started the business a century ago under the name Funeraria Salazar because the enterprise was located on Calle Salazar, Binondo. He offered lavish funeral services that included a hearse with four horses, attendants and a metallic coffin for the bargain price of P85.

His son, my great-grandfather Vicente, left the family business and set up shop on his own, which apparently started a minor family feud. His funeral parlor is what we now know as Funeraria Nacional, Funeraria Salazar was later renamed Funeraria Quiogue. When Vicente died, his wife Luisa continued the business, and when he was old enough, my grandfather Antonio took over. When *Lolo* passed away, all his children took an active role in the business.

Funeraria Nacional has overseen the funeral services for such luminaries as Fernando Poe Sr., Benigno Aquino Sr., seven of the country's presidents—from Quezon to Macapagal—and for some of the country's oldest families. Family legend has it that Nacional owned the first Cadillac hearse in the country, which was purchased especially for President Quezon.

Nacional also held the distinction of being the only funeral parlor then to have a caisson—a horse-drawn carriage that held the coffin during a state or military funeral. This was used exclusively for the presidential funerals that Nacional serviced, but it was also lent to the military whenever they needed it.

The original Funeraria Nacional was located along Avenida Rizal, beside the Manila Grand Opera House. My dad's family lived above the parlor and he recalls how difficult it was to sleep at night because of the wailings from mourners in the chapel below. In the late 60s, Nacional moved to its current location on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City, and other funeral parlors relocated or opened branches as well. In the 1970s, it was renamed Nacional Memorial Homes.

My uncle lived in an apartment above the offices on Araneta Avenue, and when we were young, we would visit him and hang out with cousins as normal kids do, except that it was around a funeral parlor setting. It was no big deal. There was nothing to be scared or freaked out about, although there was also no desire to explore. To this day, I've never even been to the morgue. The one room I did find extremely fascinating was the display room, where a whole slew of caskets were lined up eagerly awaiting customers to come and pick them out.

When my *Lolo* passed away, the wake was, of course, held in one of Nacional's chapels. That was the only time my cousins and I decided to explore and visit the morgue. We left the wake and headed down a narrow hallway to a dark, spiral staircase. Two steps down and my courage gave out; I ran back up to the safety of the chapel. Until now I've really never gone beyond the parlor.

Though none of my siblings or cousins ever seriously went into the funeral business, you could probably say the Quiogues are really meant to be in this business. We are all somehow related to the other top funeral parlors in the country.

A Quiogue married into the Del Rosario clan, whose offspring included Ambassador Ramon del Rosario. This line continued to manage Funeraria Quiogue. Another relative married into the Tabora family that owns Funeraria Tres Amigos. Not to mention the fact that when you drive around Metro Manila, you're bound to stumble into various funeral parlors that are owned by a Quiogue. Distant relatives, I'm sure, whom I've never met, but who all ended up in the same line of business.

Owning a *funeraria* did have its perks, though, albeit strange and sometimes ghoulish ones. One year, my dad and his friends held a Halloween party in one of the chapels. They borrowed a coffin to set in the middle of the room, and people took turns lying in the coffin and having their picture taken.

One of the most useful perks for me was that anytime I needed a driver, I could call for one. Nacional had drivers on duty 24/7 so they could be ready for a pick-up at any moment. One night when I had a dinner to attend and the family driver didn't show up, I asked Nacional to send a driver over. It took quite a while to get to the dinner, though, and it wasn't the traffic. I noticed that the driver was going really, really, really slow! (Force of habit, from driving for funeral processions.)

A few years ago, when I was a production assistant for Star Cinema, we had an irregular working schedule and getting to and from work was a problem. My dad generously offered me the use of the funeral van, which he said was only used to ferry flowers. I realized soon enough that this wasn't entirely true when the van picked me up one time and there was a gurney with a body bag in the back. Imagine how relieved I was when I found out it was empty! After that I gave the driver very strict instructions to "take the body bag out before I get into the van!"

The van became quite familiar at the Star Cinema office. When I called the guard to check if my ride was there, he would reply, "Mam, *andito na ang ambulansya ninyo*." (The vans were marked as ambulances so they could go out even on color-coding days.) Of course there were days when the van would not be immediately available. When the reply came, "*Wala pa yung* van *e, nasa* Makati Med pa," I knew gurney and body bag would be there before me.

The funeral procession for President Manuel L. Quezon in 1945

I remember this one time a few of my friends hitched a ride with me. The *funeraria* driver was in such a rush to get to the office that he took off with the gurney and the body bag inside the van. Being a custom-designed van, there was only one extra seat in the back, so two of us squeezed into the front and another took the back seat. But there was one more person left, and she volunteered to sit beside the gurney. I was watching her and noted how calm she was the whole time. Finally, I asked her, "Aren't you scared?" She said she wasn't. I asked her if she knew what the van was used for, and she replied, "It's an ambulance." I calmly reminded her, "Yes, but not for the living." Well, to put it bluntly, she freaked out.

Another funny incident took place in Dasmariñas Village. I had to rush to a friend's house at 1 a.m. to pick-up some money I needed. Our driver had already gone home and my dad wouldn't let me take a cab at that hour, so I called Nacional and asked to borrow the ambulance. When we got to Dasma, the guards stopped us at the gates and eyed us suspiciously. They're very strict there, and obviously, they hadn't been informed of any death in the village that would require a pick-up from the *funeraria*. He asked what we were there for, and I simply replied "*May kukunin lang ho* (we're picking up something)." When I realized what he must be thinking, I quickly added "*Sobre lang ho, hindi ho bangkay*. (Just an envelope, not a corpse)."

Another perk? When we needed funeral set-ups for film shoots at Star Cinema, I was the go-to girl. Just one call and I could get them the full shebang at a bargain price. Whether they needed high-end, luxurious funeral paraphernalia or your basic set-up, I could get it for them at better rates than if they went to other funeral parlors. Of course the rates would vary, depending on the use. If we were to rent a coffin, we would have to specify if someone would actually lie inside. I thought this was weird until my uncle explained to me that coffins are designed for one time use only, so if someone used it, the fabric lining might be damaged. Logical!

When that television series "Six Feet Under" began its local run, people thought I would be a natural fan. Fact is, I've never watched an episode. When anyone asks, I would always say, "Why watch the show when I was living the life?"

Well, okay. I never really lived in a funeral parlor, with people holding funeral masses and wakes in our living room. But funeral homes, wakes and burials have definitely been a part—a big part—of my life. In fact, you could say, it really is in the blood. I am a Quiogue, after all. •

Figure it out

396,331: Total registered deaths in RP in 2003

318,546: Total registered deaths in RP in 1993

P400 million: Approximate amount spent on burials every year, as of 2006

Around 250: Number of wakes in a Funeraria Paz parlor in a month, as of 2006

P50,000 to P375,000: Cost of funeral services in Funeraria Paz

P1.1 million: Most expensive service that Funeraria Paz has rendered so far, which includes a bronze casket worth P700,000.

P350,000-P450,000: Average burial expense, including cost of memorial lot, casket and interment in 2006

P245,000: Average burial costs in 2004

P40,000 to P200,000: Price range of columbary vaults that can hold a maximum of four urns, as of 2006

1963: Year the Catholic Church lifted the ban on cremation

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Sources: National Statistical Coordination Board, Inquirer Archives

Kris: Now, I only trust Facial Care Centre for my skin.

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